

Major foresees a classless Britain

'The power to choose and the right to own'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday set out his vision of a classless Britain without barriers that would give its people "the power to choose and the right to own".

He accused Labour of gutter politics on the health service and issued firm warnings about the kind of deal on European union that he was prepared to contemplate at the Maastricht summit.

Mr Major's first address to the Conservative conference as leader earned him the kind of rapturous ovation the party used to give Margaret Thatcher, and he acknowledged her achievements at the outset, saying the greatest tribute Tories could pay her would be to do as she did: "Win, win and win again."

Then the prime minister unfurled the Tory banner for next year's election in a highly personalised and self-deprecating speech in which he spoke of "the long road from

Coldharbour Lane to Downing Street" and joked of his own education: "Never has so much been written about so little."

Mr Major promised that the Tories would offer "a strong Britain, confident of its position, secure in its defence, firm in its respect for the law, a strong economy, free from the threat of inflation in which taxes can fall, savings can grow and independence is assured." He emphasised his belief in "the self-respect which comes from ownership", and hinted at a change in inheritance tax, saying: "I want to see wealth cascading down the generations. We do not see each generation starting out anew with the past cut off and the future ignored."

A confident Britain was a force for good in a troubled world, and alone among all nations, stood at the hub of three great interlocking alliances: Nato, the European Community and the Commonwealth. The prime minister goes to Harare on



Crowd pleasers: John and Norma Major, who left the platform to meet representatives after his standing ovation

Monday for the Commonwealth heads of government conference, and yesterday he expressed the hope that South Africa would be accepted back as a member as soon as apartheid was ended.

On Europe, he said that policy remained a closer union between states, not a federal merger of states. A single European currency was an uncertain prospect. "Any treaty must provide for a separate decision to be taken not now but at a future date by the British parliament and the British government. It's our decision. A single currency cannot be imposed upon us."

Inflation fell to an annual rate of 4.1 per cent last month from 4.7 per cent in August, the lowest figure since April 1988. Inflation peaked at 10.9 per cent last autumn. Page 21

And I would not accept, on behalf of Britain, any treaty which sought to impose a single currency at however distant a date.

Ministers are more anxious about the political union negotiations than those on economic union. Mr Major said:

health care, neither piecemeal or in part or as a whole. Not today. Not tomorrow. Not after the next election. Not ever while I'm prime minister." Those who set out to frighten the weak and the old with carefully calculated sneers, he said, belonged to the gutters of politics.

Mr Major, whose speech came on the day that inflation fell to 4.1 per cent, repeated his insistence that he would never "play fast and loose with the economy". Times had been tough and he had not forgotten what it was like when a business collapsed or to be unemployed.

Under Labour, he said, a minimum wage would create unemployment, higher taxes would drive business talent abroad and inflation would hit those least able to protect themselves. "It may be true a Labour prime minister would no longer get his marching orders over beer and sandwiches at Number Ten. In these days of designer socialism, he'd get them over a G&T down at the old T&G."

Predicting that Labour's manifesto would be the highest tax demand in history, Mr Major pledged that another Tory government would keep down taxes, but stopped short of promising further cuts. He

did, however, foresee a further ownership revolution to build upon policies that had resulted in four million families owning homes, eight million more owning shares, and four and a half million with personal pensions.

In the next parliament, he said, "we must go much further in encouraging every family to own and to save. To extend every family's ability to pass on something to their children, to build up something of their own."

The prime minister won cheers for promising a crack-down on crime and a return to basics in education, and while there was not quite the frenzied flag-waving abandon of the Thatcher years, he had clearly won the warm affection of constituency activists. Mr Major had approached the platform through the crowd and when he finished speaking, he was applauded for a full ten minutes. Then, as the conference sang "Land of Hope and Glory", Mr Major and his wife broke with tradition to leave the platform and circulate again among the representatives.

Speech details, page 4
Tory conference, pages 4 and 5
Leading article, page 15
Conference sketch, page 22

Paris, Bonn and Madrid throw down gauntlet

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FRANCE, Germany and Spain yesterday defiantly reiterated calls for a common European foreign and defence policy to be decided by majority voting, setting their countries on a collision course with Britain.

Their call came after a lunch in Paris attended by the three foreign ministers — Roland Dumas, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Francisco Fernández Ordoñez. They said the Western European Union should implement the EC's security policy, but made no mention of Nato. Most other EC members side with Britain in wanting to see European defence closely linked to the Atlantic alliance.

Their statement came less than two months before the Maastricht summit, and follows a firm rejection by Britain of any federal goal in the treaty on political union.

"In order to conclude in Maastricht and thus come closer to attaining European union, with a federal vocation, the three ministers recall that... the implementation of a foreign and security policy constitutes the necessary component of political union," the statement said.

"It must include all the questions related to security and defence with the aim, in the future, of a common defence."

Although the French had called earlier this week for "all colleagues on the same wave-length" to attend a special meeting on defence in Paris, yesterday's gathering was officially downgraded to no more than a working lunch.

France was piqued by last week's Anglo-Italian declaration, which linked European defence firmly to the Atlantic alliance.

The French immediately called for a meeting in Paris to discuss the various defence plans now on the table — a move that enraged the Dutch, who hold the EC presidency, and was studiously ignored by other member states. German

diplomats said yesterday that the Dutch would be informed of the outcome of the trilateral talks.

French tactics were seen to reflect fears that the initiative may be slipping away from Paris.

France was also concerned that Bonn's traditional support could no longer be relied upon, especially after Herr Genscher's recent trip to Washington when he assured the Americans of German backing for a continued Nato dimension to defence.

Behind the insistence in yesterday's communiqué that "all questions related to security and defence" must be on the table at Maastricht, there is the growing awareness that three decades of dominant French influence in the EC are now coming to an end.

EC unity at risk, page 10



Accuser and accused: Anita Hill, who gave testimony yesterday that Judge Clarence Thomas (right) had sexually harassed her at work ten years ago



Weinstock rules out hostile BAe bid

By CAROL LEONARD AND ROSS TIEMAN

LORD Weinstock, managing director of GEC, has for the first time said on the record that he would not make a hostile bid for British Aerospace, the troubled defence and engineering group, unless a foreign predator appeared.

In an interview with *The Times*, Lord Weinstock described himself as a concerned customer of BAe, which he said he wanted to remain intact. He denied GEC owned any BAe shares. His statement was welcomed by Dick Evans, BAe's chief executive.

GEC, as one of BAe's major suppliers, would not make a hostile bid, said Lord Weinstock, but he reserved the right to launch a bid if a foreign predator were to appear on the scene.

Lord Weinstock said: "We have a considerable concern

for British Aerospace because it makes the carriers for a lot of our equipment. We desire that it should survive intact and should not fall into Continued on page 20, col 6

Electric lord, page 21



Weinstock: a concerned customer of BAe

Beleaguered US judge says 'no job worth this agony'

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

A DRAMA at the centre of a national debate turned uglier yesterday after Clarence Thomas, the US Supreme Court nominee, said no job was worth the agony he had endured following allegations that he sexually harassed a former personal assistant a decade ago. Minutes later, however, Anita Hill, a law professor in Oklahoma, said the judge had often turned the conversation to explicit sex when they ate lunch at work.

In a nationally televised hearing, Ms Hill said that Judge Thomas boasted about the size of his penis and the pleasure he gave women and once asked, in their office, "Who has put public hair on my Coke?" She said he asked her for a "date" several times and, when she refused, talked about pornographic films.

In his opening statement, Mr Thomas said he had been "racking my brains and eating my insides out to think what I could have done" to make Ms Hill "think that I was interested in her in more than a professional way". He also apologised if he had ever said anything that had been misconstrued.

Their conflicting statements were released into an atmosphere of recrimination arising from an anguished national debate about what is acceptable behaviour between men and women in the workplace. For many people, Ms Hill and Judge Thomas are symbols of the problem. Congress itself is caught in the storm amid media attention on its own exemption from laws that make sexual harassment illegal in America, while

several Democratic senators, including Edward Kennedy, are dogged by publicity about their own peccadilloes.

Since the hearings are unlikely to establish "the truth", Mr Thomas's fate will probably depend on how the senators' constituents react. Republicans are nervous about a backlash from women voters if they are perceived to be dismissive of Ms Hill's allegations. But Democrats are worried that Mr Thomas could be seen as a martyr to the attempts of liberals to embarrass President Bush.

Heightening the suspense were last-minute allegations from a second woman, Angela Wright, a former press secretary at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington while Mr Continued on page 20, col 1

INSIDE	
Arts	13
Births, marriages, deaths	16, 17
Business	21-24
Classified	12
Cruis & social	16
Crosswords	17-20
Leading articles	15
Letters	15, 32
Obituaries	16
Portfolio	33
Sport	35-40
TV & radio	19
Weather	20
Weekend Money	25-34



Barnsley pioneers medicine sans frontières

By PETER DAVENPORT

FOUR staff from Barnsley hospital are to be sent for a five-day stay at the George V hotel-de-luxe in Paris, to pick up tips on improving life for patients.

A cleaner, a kitchen porter, a chef and a staff nurse will be visiting one of the world's most famous hotels at the expense of Trenl Regional Health Authority. The cost of the trip is £5,322, which will be met from a fund of £25,000 set aside to enable NHS staff to travel abroad "collecting practical ideas" for improving the quality of service in hospitals.

Senior health officials insisted yesterday that the money would be well spent. This is the first time such a subvention has been approved, but it is hoped the scheme will be run annually. All 3,000 staff at the 810-bed district hospital, which is among those consid-

ering an application to become a self-governing trust next year, were invited to enter a competition for cash awards under the scheme.

The four winners selected the George V because it has recently undergone a programme of "total quality management", aimed at involving all levels of staff in improving standards of service. A similar exercise is now planned for the Barnsley hospital.

The head chef will be looking at the hotel catering, the staff nurse at caring services, the cleaner at housekeeping methods and the porter will be investigating the front-of-house facilities.

The four, whose names were not disclosed yesterday, leave for Paris early next month and will prepare a detailed report on their return. George Siedman, the hospital's support services manager, said yesterday that they had been selected because they had produced a

good idea and because they had long records of loyalty, hardwork and commitment. "We want to make sure that our patients get the quality of service they deserve," he said.

As a forerunner of what the future may hold for NHS patients in Barnsley, *The Times* yesterday compared the lunch menus available at the hospital and in the restaurant at the George V.

In Barnsley, the choice included braised beef, deep fried cod in batter, poached cod in parsley sauce, all with creamed or chipped potatoes, or a three-bean salad, followed by apple pie and custard, rhubarb fool, fresh fruit or cheese and biscuits, with tea or coffee.

A business lunch at the George V, priced at about £35, included partridge consommé with vine leaves and ravioli, roast shoulder of lamb with coconut and pineapple, pâtisseries, coffee, and a half-bottle of wine.

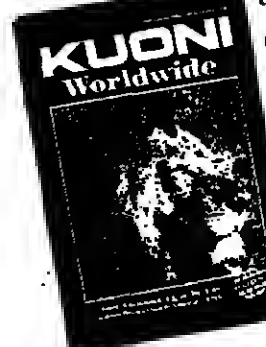
Now all we need is a doctor or two.



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Mixed emotions at the end of a long and winding legal road



Yesterday: the Beatles sowing Apple seeds in 1964

By ROBIN YOUNG

A BEATLES long-player failed to make a record yesterday when a £7 million courtroom battle between the group's Apple Corps and the American company, Apple Computer, was settled after 116 days in the High Court.

There had already been another ten days spent in the Court of Appeal and a one-day excursion to the European Commission in Brussels, and the case, centring on the use of apples as trademarks, had seemed set to break legal endurance records.

When both Apples finally got the pip with the law's delays, which threatened to draw the business out until next summer, the costs on both sides were already estimated

to have reached £7 million. What it cost the taxpayer to keep Mr Justice Ferris and Court 53 occupied for a year is additional to that amount.

The action brought by the British-based Apple Corps claimed the American computer company had flouted an agreement reached in 1981 to regulate use of the two companies' apple trademarks by putting its multi-coloured apple logo on musical computers.

The hearing started on October 29 last year, when the case was expected to last 12 weeks. A year later, when it was abandoned, fewer than 30 of the 80 potential witnesses had been heard.

The longest High Court hearing in English legal history is thought

to be one in which 191 days of evidence were heard before the parties decided to compromise.

Yesterday Gordon Pollock, QC, representing Apple Corps, broke the news of the settlement to the judge after a week's adjournment, which had been hoped only to save perhaps a month's worth of evidence.

"It has been a long, hard road," Mr Pollock said, telling the judge that the agreement which had been reached was for the action to be discontinued with no order for costs and with all the terms remaining confidential.

Mr Justice Ferris told the lawyers: "I do not know whether my surprise at this development at this stage outweighs my relief at not

having to write a definitive judgment, or perhaps my disappointment." Mr Pollock said: "Your lordship must be subject to a maelstrom of emotions."

Most of the witnesses who had given evidence had come from abroad. Many were American law professors and legal experts from other countries called to give evidence on complex issues of foreign law. After they had been heard the judge granted Mr Pollock an interim order that issues of foreign law were not relevant in the case.

Other witnesses were Apple Computer's top executives. At least one, having waited two days while arguments continued about the admissibility of his evidence, fi-

nally went home in disgust. Even at the end, the parties found it was not so simple to extricate themselves from the law's travails as they might have hoped. Mr Pollock, with the agreement of Christopher Carr, QC, representing Apple Computer, asked the judge to discharge all orders made in the case to date. As far as anyone could remember there were about 24, all in Apple Corps' favour.

The judge objected that this seemed improper and after 20 minutes' discussion it was agreed counsel on both sides could instead sign a minute agreeing not to seek enforcement. On that note the lawyers finally found themselves in harmony with the old Beatles hit "We Can Work It Out".

BA seeks big savings at loss making local airports

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways is planning drastic action to stem mounting losses from its regional airports and short-haul operations from Gatwick.

Unio officials were called to a meeting with management yesterday and told that services from Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester — known as regional business units — were at an economic and competitive disadvantage.

At the same time, in a move which BA described as completely separate, senior managers at Gatwick were ordered to reduce short-haul costs by 30 per cent. Robert Ayling, BA's marketing director, said that the cuts were vital if the network's long term future was to be secured.

The airline has been increasingly concerned at the big losses being made by the three centres which provide hundreds of services a day to the Scottish highlands and islands, other domestic routes and to mainland Europe.

Much of the blame has been put on the fleet of ageing 1-11 jets which have been taken out of operations from Heathrow or Gatwick and based in the regions. The aircraft are becoming unpopular with passengers and use more fuel than newer jets used by competitors.

One of the solutions put to union leaders was to form a new company jointly with TPL — the parent company of Brynmor Airways and Birmingham European which is already 40 per cent owned by BA — and the Danish travel organisation Maersk. The unions rejected the idea, but after hearing gloomy profit forecasts agreed to cooperate in a joint working party to find a solution acceptable to both parties.

The regional services are included in the overall European operations and their precise losses are therefore impossible to calculate. The European services overall, however, are known to have lost £34 million in the past financial year. Many services, which may not make a profit in their own right, are maintained as feeders to bring

passengers to the main airports to catch more lucrative long-haul flights.

British Airways said that no firm conclusions about how to deal with the problem of the loss making regional services had been reached but the prime consideration of any changes would be to ensure that the 900 staff involved would be able to continue to be employed by British Airways.

If the airline is to return to profitability big new savings clearly have to be found and already loss-making routes to Dublin, Shannon and Cork have been axed.

Management has now decided to halt once and for all the haemorrhage from Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester and is studying options for doing so, from big cost cutting to buying a fleet of new jets. Only the shuttle services from London to Scotland and Manchester are being excluded from the review.

BA's travel is back to the levels it was before the Gulf war and world recession brought about the most severe collapse in aviation history.

7.3 million passengers using Britain's main airports last month was only 1.6 per cent fewer than in the same month last year, BAA said. This month is expected to show a slight increase overall.

Heathrow was only 0.7 per cent down while fast expanding Stansted had a remarkable 53 per cent increase in the number of passengers. For the first time since the Gulf war the number of aircraft movements was up, by 1.5 per cent overall.

The growth in Stansted is well established with new scheduled services to France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway and Romania due to start this month. This will bring to ten the number of airlines operating out of the airport's new terminal to ten, the number of routes to 30 and the number of countries to 12. Several large American airlines are also seeking permission to fly to Stansted.



Roaring toothache: Dentist Peter Kertesz, more used to human patients, extracts an infected canine from Ruchi, one of only 400 surviving Indian lions, at London zoo yesterday. Born in captivity two and a half years ago, the lioness would have died from her condition in the wild

Last minute rush to register dogs

By RAY CLANCY

A LAST minute rush is expected to beat today's deadline for dog owners to register for an exemption certificate under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Only 3,000 of the estimated 10,000 owners of pit bull terriers have notified the authorities that they wish to apply for a certificate.

The Wood Green animal shelter in north London, which is managing the index, said that owners were registering all the time. The shelter expects 4,000 dogs to have been registered when the weekend's post is opened.

Under the legislation introduced in August owners of pit bulls and three other controlled dogs — the Japanese tosa of which there is one in Britain and the fila braziliara and dogo argentino which have over been introduced here — must complete a form by midnight. To obtain their certificate

they must arrange third party insurance, about £10 per dog per year, have the animal insured and arrange for a vet to identify the dog with a permanent tattoo and implant. The deadline for full registration is November 30.

Some owners are unsure if their crossbreeds should be registered. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said that such owners should consult a vet.

Nishad Khan, whose daughter Rukhsana, aged six, was recently savaged by a pit bull in Bradford, said he hoped that all owners would register their dogs. "We want our parks and streets to be safe for the little ones to play."

Yvonne Wilson, owner of the tosa, said she had arranged insurance for her dog. She is campaigning against the legislation and plans to take a case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Tomb of Tutankhamun's tutor is discovered empty

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE tomb of Tutankhamun's tutor has been discovered in southern Egypt. Although empty, and possibly never used for the burial of Sennedjem, "the god's father", the relics and inscriptions in the tomb may shed new light on the family origins of the pharaoh.

The discovery was made by Boyo Ockinga of Macquarie University in New South Wales after three years of investigation near the town of Akhmin, 230 miles south of Cairo on the right bank of the Nile. Built some 110ft up the face of an escarpment, the tomb had been ignored because of its poor condition.

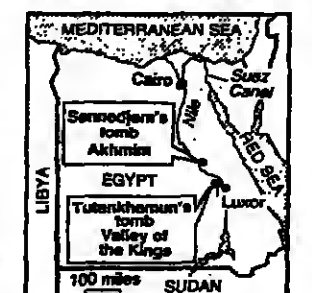
The tomb has also given up clues to the possible fate of Nakhtmin, apparently heir to the throne of Egypt and victim of a military coup.

The wall carvings suffered extensive damage in ancient times, but looters in the 1970s used dynamite and crowbars to look for treasure in a cave beneath the funerary chambers. "It is a huge tomb, badly desecrated, that has given us only fragmentary remains," Dr Ockinga said.

The tomb was identified as Sennedjem's by an inscription over the portico describing him as "fan bearer on the right of the king, overseer of nurses", and most importantly, "the god's father". Dr Ockinga said the inscription showed that Sennedjem was not only in charge of the upbringing of royal children, but also

tutor to the king himself. A chariot procession carved on one wall shows Tutankhamun, who reigned between 1334 and 1325 BC, with his regent (and successor) Ay as a fan bearer. Sennedjem and his wife Iuy are shown greeting the pharaoh, although the tutor's image has been defaced. An inscription above the main door of the tomb describes Ay as "chancellor of the goddess Isis" and also as mother of Nakhtmin.

This enigmatic mao, known hitherto only from five inscribed ushabti figures



found in Tutankhamun's tomb more than 60 years ago, was both a royal scribe and one of the pharaoh's generals. Since fragmentary statues of Sennedjem later in his career call him "hereditary prince, chief general, king's son", Dr Ockinga believes that his son Nakhtmin was clearly designated as heir to the elderly Ay, and thus the next pharaoh of Egypt.

Dr Ockinga speculates that Nakhtmin's mother Iuy may have been Ay's sister. "There was a powerful fam-

ily living at Akhmin," he said. "Akheaten's mother, Queen Tiye, and the powerful Queen Nefertiti also came from there." He points out that if Tutankhamun was indeed tutored at Akhmin, he may well have come from a secondary lineage rather than being the son of Akheaten (Amunophis IV) as some scholars believe.

Nakhtmin himself never reigned. When Ay died after four years on the throne he was succeeded by the army commander, Horemheb. Dr Ockinga believes that both Ay and his designated heir Nakhtmin were assassinated by Horemheb, who seems to have been the legal heir to Tutankhamun, but to have passed over in favour of Ay.

Horemheb's faction then set out to obliterate the memory of Nakhtmin and his family. Dr Ockinga believes that was why the images of Nakhtmin and the tomb of Sennedjem were mutilated so badly. No remains or sarcophagus of Sennedjem were found, and the inner statue shrine of the tomb was empty.

Professor Geoffrey Martin of London University, who recently excavated Horemheb's tomb at Saqqara, south of Cairo, said: "This is an amazing piece of detective work. Dr Ockinga's part II shows what can be done with monuments which are virtually destroyed if you scrutinise every centimetre of the wall surfaces."

Man, 35, is accused of killing girl

AN unemployed man aged 35 was remanded in custody yesterday accused of murdering Lynne Rogers, aged 17.

Scott Singleton, aged 35, of Broadfield, Crawley, West Sussex, appeared before Crawley magistrates accused of murdering the girl, from Catford, southeast London, at Rotherfield or elsewhere in Sussex, between September 3 and September 10. Her body was found beneath brambles in a copse off an isolated country lane near Rotherfield last month.

The girl, who lived in Elmer Road, Catford, had left home to meet a man for a job interview at Charing Cross station on September 4 and her body was found five days later.

Mr Singleton was remanded in custody until October 17 but with his consent will not be produced in court again until October 24. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Baker studies Thornton case

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, is examining fresh evidence in the case of Sara Thornton, the woman jailed for life for stabbing her violent and alcoholic husband, to see if it merits a referral to the Court of Appeal.

George Delf, co-ordinator of the campaign to free her, believes the evidence, which was not called by the defence at the trial, supports the theory that she was provoked by her husband's behaviour. The material comes from the couple's GP, who visited their home in Atherstone, Warwickshire, four months before the murder and heard Malcolm Thornton, while drunk, threaten to murder his wife.

Libel damages

DAMAGES of £40,000 and costs estimated at £50,000 were awarded against The Sport newspaper yesterday after a High Court jury decided that Anthony Paragter, aged 46, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, had been libelled in an article suggesting that a convicted killer, Jeremy Bamber, was innocent of the murder of his family. The newspaper denied libel, arguing that it had not accused Mr Paragter.

Panama case

The Panamanian government was yesterday given extra time to prepare evidence for its High Court plea for continuation of freezing orders on \$6,000,000 (£3.5 million) held in London bank accounts, which it says was misappropriated by Panama's former dictator General Noriega. The decision was opposed by Ramon Steiro, the general's brother-in-law and by the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Adverts protest

Newspaper proprietors throughout Europe are to launch an advertising campaign next month against a proposed EC ban on tobacco advertising. The campaign starts in 100 newspapers and 200 magazines on November 11, when health ministers vote on the proposals. The European Publishers Council said: "We believe that the very visibility of the press may be threatened."

Nursing win

The British Nursing Association won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that it had put patients' lives at risk by supplying a hospital with an unqualified nurse. The allegations appeared in the *News of the World* in May under the headline "I was bogus nurse for a year." News Group Newspapers Ltd, the publishers, accepted yesterday that the claims were false.

CORRECTION

In some editions of yesterday's paper Chatsworth was referred to as being in Devonshire. This should of course have read Derbyshire.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Goldsmith versus Private Eye

Richard Ingrams, editor of Private Eye, had no conception of the peep-up anger he was unleashing. He was making the mistake of seeing James Goldsmith through English eyes, as though he were an Englishman. While in



many ways he was, "if you dig a little deeper," Goldsmith says, "you find that I am half Jew and half auvergnat." In the case of serious aggression, both races fight. Three days after publication, Goldsmith issued 63 separate writs for libel against Private Eye and another 37 against its distributors. Ivan Fallon on Sir James Goldsmith — The Sunday Times tomorrow

A lesson in the polite refusal of courtesy calls

By JOE JOSEPH

"OH DO get up, madam. National Courtesy Day, I said. Not National Cursy Day. There's no need to bow. You just have to be polite to people."

The old girls who shop at Harrods on Friday mornings are polite but a little deaf, good qualities in a diplomat but not all that useful in interviewees, who are loved best when they can hear well and reply amusingly at dictation speed.

The theme for yesterday's National Courtesy Day, which is organised annually and

heroically by The Polite Society in an attempt to make us improve our manners, was "Be A Better Neighbour". According to the Rev Ian Gregory, of Newcastle under Lyme, we in Britain are becoming surly, selfish and inconsiderate because "we are a nation of strangers".

He said he hoped that anyone who cared about courtesy would ask somebody they do not know very well round for coffee, lunch, tea, diner, or even breakfast, to get to know them better. "Thou-

sands of people are aching for regular human contact. Today's a good day to offer it," he said.

If any two people need to share a friendly pot of tea and a few milk chocolate Hobnobs, they are the Hon James Tennant and Charles Saatchi, neighbours on Chelsea's St Leonard's Terrace. Mr Tennant seems to have a habit of upsetting his neighbours.

Friction between the Tennants and the Saatchis flared in the newspapers recently when the Saatchis got upset about anti-semitic

taunts allegedly hurled at them by Mr Tennant and his wife Elizabeth.

The Saatchis got so depressed by the behaviour of the couple who shared their expensive party wall that they began to wonder if the Tennants might be able to cast some light on the unfortunate fire which engulfed the Saatchi Rolls one night.

The scene moves to St Leonard's Terrace, London SW3. A doorbell is rung. "Ah, Mr Tennant. It so happens that today is National Courtesy Day and the Rev Ian

Gregory of The Polite Society says it's a good opportunity to ask somebody we don't know very well round for coffee, lunch, tea, diner, or even breakfast, to get to know them better. He says thousands of people are aching for regular human contact and that today's a good day to offer it."

"Oh does he, I see. Well, the problem is, well, we are just leaving for the country, I'm afraid. We are an active part of the community here, very involved in local citizens' groups, but we do have building work to attend to in the

country, so I'm afraid we won't be able to invite anyone round for anything."

A telephone rings in the advertising office of Charles Saatchi.

"Actually, he's out at the moment," a man said.

"Do you know if he has any plans to invite Mr Tennant round for a chat and some Hobnobs today?"

"That I can't comment on."

"Will he call me back to let me know when he returns to the office?"

"I think it's unlikely."

Oh well. We did try, Rev.

Suspended sentence for head guilty of cruelty to children

By RONALD FAUX

THE headmistress accused of running an authoritarian and dictatorial regime at a special school for handicapped children was given a suspended sentence yesterday after admitting three charges of cruelty.

Judge Jolly at Preston Crown Court told Brenda Ford, aged 52, of Scalehall, Lancaster: "I have considerable sympathy for you, but I think it is totally necessary to make clear society's disapproval whilst acknowledging, on the facts of your case, that you

have much to be proud of in helping very many people over the years." He sentenced her to eight months suspended for 12 months, with a supervision order.

Two nursery assistants at Scothorpe House, Lancaster, were conditionally discharged. Mary Milnes, aged 55, of Lancaster, and Maureen Robinson, aged 55, of Heysham, had each pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting a child, causing actual bodily harm. The Crown had allowed 12 charges of cruelty and assault

involving children at the school not to be proceeded with. Earlier, Timothy White, for the prosecution, had told the court that the allegations which the Crown would have relied upon were that some children were force-fed and required to eat their own vomit.

Judge Jolly said yesterday that the prosecution had mentioned various generalised allegations which were not substantiated by specific pleas. "My task is to sentence you for the specific pleas."

He told Ford that she had been wrong in failing in her prime responsibility, which was to look after herself so that she would be fit and well to look after other people. Terence Rigby, for Ford, said the allegations she had admitted were of depriving a child of a drink of Ribena, of slapping a child on the thigh and of pulling a child's hair to draw attention to work on her desk. "There is no allegation that these children suffered any physical injury in consequence," he said.

Such was the success of Scothorpe House that the school became much larger, he said, with children from primary age to those aged 16 years with learning difficulties. Teachers and helpers were always in short supply and no instruction or training was given to teaching staff by the local authority. The teaching staff became increasingly overstretched and Ford's health deteriorated.

Parents of children at Scothorpe House have demanded a full independent public enquiry into the way the school had been run. A spokesman said: "We are not satisfied by this outcome. These were isolated incidents over a period of 18 months, but we believe they are the tip of an iceberg. The education authority was told in 1977 about the fears of parents of children at the school."

An investigation of the circumstances surrounding the treatment of autistic children at the school has been ordered by Lancashire county council. Louise Ellman, council leader, said: "Our sole concern is for the wellbeing of children in our care."

Parents of dead babies may sue

By PETER VICTOR

THE parents of babies who died or became ill with mysterious breathing problems in a Lincolnshire hospital called for a public enquiry yesterday and said they would launch an action for damages. They are also considering starting a private prosecution if the Director of Public Prosecutions does not press charges in connection with the deaths.

Four babies died at Grantham and Kesteven general hospital between January and April and eight became ill. Martin Gibson, the hospital's general manager, called police after an unusually high level of insulin was found in the blood of a child who collapsed.

Detectives consulted medical experts on the misuse of drugs and looked particularly at the effects of insulin and potassium chloride, a substance used to treat dehydration. A nurse, aged 22, who was interviewed by detectives, is on extended leave and police bail. Police sent a file on the case to the DPP last month.

The parents said they were worried about the time being taken to reach a decision and feared that the affair might be swept under the carpet. A spokesman told a news conference at Grantham: "They want to know what happened to their kids."

TV auction result out next week

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WINNERS and losers in the Channel 3 licence auction will be named next Wednesday at 10am, the Independent Television Commission said yesterday.

The ten commission members concluded their final deliberations by lunchtime yesterday. Jittery bidders were then faxed a statement advising them of the time.

Results of the auction, which could lead to the biggest shake-up of commercial television since independent television began in 1956, will be announced simultaneously on Stock Exchange screens.

Many bidders interpreted yesterday's announcement as evidence that the commission has not invoked the exceptional circumstances clause to let in a lower cash bidder. If the commission did not announce the date of the result yesterday, bidders would have been summoned for further talks in the next two weeks.

Yesterday's news may worry Thames, TV-am, London Weekend and Granada, all of which have been outbid by newcomers and would clearly have benefited from use of the clause. However, it is thought that the initial quality threshold has been tough enough to weed out most of the challengers.

Muslim strippers face up to community's outrage

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TWO Muslim women will have the outrage of their community tomorrow night by going on stage to perform a striptease show before a largely Asian audience in a south London nightclub. The women say they have received death threats and abuse as a result of their decision to flout the norms of their Muslim culture.

Zarina Ramzan, aged 24, and Qamar Ashraf, aged 19, will defy Islamic law, which demands that women go covered in public. The Koran clearly commands modesty of dress and behaviour for men and women.

Iqbal Sacranie, of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, and chairman of the Balham mosque, denied there was any organised community action

against the women. "But with two million Muslims in this country, it would not surprise me if someone showed some emotion," he said. "It is not about religion, it is a question of morality. The Islamic viewpoint is very clear: it is immoral to go about performing such acts."

The women have hired security guards for the show, in Vauxhall. Their actions, which they justify by citing examples of male suppression, highlight a growing disillusionment among young Muslim women in Britain.

Ms Ramzan, a Pakistani Sunni Muslim from the Jat, or landowners' caste, has seven sisters and one brother. Her role models are Madonna and Benazir

Bhutto. She said she and Ms Ashraf had performed privately with no trouble at functions in their community, charging £400 a show, but were now going public. "I knew there would be a bad reaction, but I did not think it would be this bad."

She claims a right to act as she chooses. "My father was fantastic, but he was too protective. In our culture, you go from your father's house to your husband's house, and from your husband's house to your son's house. The men are allowed to drink, smoke and have mistresses. But a woman can have her legs broken by her brothers, uncles or father if she is seen talking to a man."

Ms Ramzan and Ms Ashraf, also a Pakistani Sunni but from the Rajput, or aristocratic caste, share a flat in the West End of London, from where they jointly run Ms Ramzan's dance company, Eastern Arts. They begin their act with modern and classical Indian dance and proceed to a strip show.

Mohammad Raza, director of the Islamic Centre in Leicester, says many British-born Muslim women grow up detesting Islam. Part of the problem, he says, is that mosques are almost wholly male institutions. In his book *Islam in Britain*, he calls for a redefinition of the Muslim woman's role.

Rana Kabbani, a Damascus-born Muslim who came to England in 1980 to study at Cambridge, says that Islam embodies an image of respect for women, but that British Muslims are "stuck in a ghetto mentality". Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Opinion*, she said: "Where Muslim women in Muslim countries are using the Koran and their cultural heritage to shake off the male dominance of their societies, in this country the Muslim community has remained in a time warp. Its women are still oppressed by rural ideas long since outlived elsewhere."



Death threats: Qamar Ashraf, top, and Zarina Ramzan

Concern for youngsters found wandering Britain's cities at night

ANDY BAVERTOCK



Lifeline: policewoman Angela Houser checks the birth certificate of a girl she spoke to in the West End

Police sweep streets for runaways

WHEN police found the Iraqi teenager she was standing at Victoria station trying to sell her music cassettes. She had been sent to London by her parents, senior figures in the Iraqi community in Sweden, for an arranged marriage. Beaten by her would-be husband, she fled into an unknown city.

Last night the girl, aged 16, was safe in a London hostel, rescued during Operation Whittington, a police search of central London this week for children prey to the degradations and miseries of an adult world. A squad of 30 officers, working for two days from 3pm to 2am, yesterday reported stopping more than 200 people and recovering 15 children.

They ranged from innocents abroad to persistent runaways no longer wanted by their parents, a male prostitute, aged 15, and a girl, aged 16, found drinking with vagrants. A similar operation, involving plain-clothes officers who normally work in juvenile protec-

tion and street offences units, was carried out for a day in July. Police found six children at risk and decided to repeat the exercise.

One of the team, Pc "Icky" Hicks, searching the area around Leicester Square, spoke of the problems facing the police: "I don't think most of them realise the dangers. If we can catch them early there is a chance. But within days or weeks they learn to lie, to give false names and addresses. If we get one youngster back with their families or to a place of safety and they stay there, that is our measure of success."

The parents of three girls, aged 12, 13 and 14, from East Ham, east London, readily accepted their children back. They thought the girls were staying with a friend. Police

found them at 9.35pm close to Piccadilly. Pc Stephen Mecke said: "We followed them round for about 20 minutes as they looked completely out of place. That area is rife for female vice but they were not aware they were in any danger. They only started to realise it when we told them we had followed them and they hadn't noticed. We could have been anybody."

Detective Inspector David Eyles, one of the officers leading the operation, said that none of the children discovered in July had been found again and the operations suggested the number of children at risk was not as serious as suggested. Inspector Charles Barber said the trio of girls was typical of children drawn to the West End, unaware of the risks they

faced. Some, however, are far from innocent. A male prostitute, aged 16, originally from Lincolnshire, was found in Shaftesbury Avenue with 14 condoms in his bag, a collection of pornographic photographs and no desire to be helped.

"I can take care of myself," he said. "The police don't do me any favours by doing this. I'm only doing it until I get a job that pays enough money. But what can you do that can pay £60 for half an hour?" He was put in a home for the night.

Two girls, aged 14 and 15, held at Bow Street, had run away from their homes in Watford that evening. Both had run away before and their parents would no longer take them back. They were put into care. Another girl, aged 16 and stopped by police at Leicester Square late in the evening, was returned to her home in Catford, south London, at midnight. By yesterday morning she was found back in the West End.

Dogs 'get more time than young homeless'

By KERRY GILL

DOG registration was higher on the government's agenda than the plight of thousands of young homeless people, for many of whom home was a cardboard box, Roger Singleton, senior director of Barnardo's, told the charity's annual conference yesterday.

"There are estimates that over 150,000 young people sleep rough every night across the UK," Mr Singleton said. "Go into the underpasses of our cities and you will see the problem for yourself. Parliament debates the pros and cons of dog registration more energetically than it addresses the plight of our homeless youngsters who wander the city streets at night."

Mr Singleton, who called for the establishment of a children's commissioner, told the conference in Edinburgh in the presence of the Princess of Wales, the charity's patron, that homelessness had become one of the great corrupting influences in society. Homeless young people were more likely to be drawn into the nightmare world of prostitution which, because of the increased incidence of HIV infection and Aids, led to the most frightening consequences.

He said that the Children Act, to be implemented on Monday, would give local authorities the legal option of helping a young person set up a home, providing practical assistance, including cash grants. "But how many will be able to, as they have to assess their priorities against scarce resources? I fear that the implementation of this excellent act depends on robbing Peter to pay Paul, and the outcome will fall well short of the principles espoused in the legislation."

YMCA offers hostel places

OFFICIALS of the YMCA are to take to the streets of London to offer young homeless people accommodation in a new hostel officially opened yesterday (David Young writes).

Andrew Harris, the YMCA's director of housing and hostels, said that the main objective was to provide accommodation before young people became homeless. "But we recognise that, in the present crisis, we must also provide for those forced to live on the streets," he said.

The hostel, in London's West Cromwell Road, was opened with funding from the environment department. It will provide accommodation for about 400 people, plus food and medical support.

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Power to choose and right to own form agenda for Nineties

Major sets out vision of freedom and opportunity

By JOHN WINDER AND ROBERT MORGAN

JOHN Major yesterday set out his vision of the Britain of the future. He wanted, he said, to work for a nation that was the best educated and the best governed, where schools and universities were the finest and accessible to all. He wanted a Britain where inner cities did not mean deprivation and no one had to go in fear at night.

"I should like to live in a world where opportunity is for everyone, where peace is truly universal and where freedom is secure," he said.

As the prime minister entered the conference hall at Blackpool yesterday for the final speech of the conference he was greeted with prolonged cheering and clapping. When he sat down after his 57-minute speech, he received a rapturous standing ovation which seemed destined to match those accorded to Margaret Thatcher until it was cut short by the singing of *Land of Hope and Glory*.

Mr Major opened with a generous tribute to Mrs Thatcher. "The Britain she left us is immeasurably stronger than the Britain she found. Above all, she helped others to believe in us, and us to believe in ourselves, and on those foundations she laid three

great election victories." The greatest tribute to her was to do as she had done, to win and win again and again.

On Labour allegations about the national health service, he said: "There is only one way to deal with a lie: nail it to the wall of truth." He added: "We have all been brought up with the health service. We use it, we cherish it. We are proud of it."

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the health service, he said: "Under this government the national health service will continue to offer free hospital treatment to everyone. There will be no charges for hospital treatment, no charges for visits to the doctor, no privatisation of health care, neither piecemeal, not in part nor as a whole. Not today, not tomorrow, not after the next election. Not ever while I am prime minister."

The health service did not belong to the Labour party. It was not a political football to be kicked around in the hope that somehow or other it would reopen the door of Downing Street to a Labour government. "It won't, neither by hook nor by Cook," he said.

He went on to tell the audience something of his rise from Coldharbour Lane, in Brixton, to Downing Street. It was a tribute to the Conservative party that that road could be travelled and perhaps there was in the hall another young man or woman who stood where he had 30 years ago, knowing few people and feeling that it was a long road to the platform. If so, he or she should remember that the last two Conservative leaders were a builder's son from

Broadstairs and a grocer's daughter from Grantham. "We don't need lectures in the Conservative party about opportunity. We are the party of opportunity," he said.

He went on to set out what the Conservative party now offered: a strong Britain, confident of its position, secure in its defence, firm in its respect for the law. It also offered a strong economy, free from the threat of inflation and in which taxes could fall, savings grow and independence was assured.

He summed up his programme for the Nineties in a single phrase: the power to choose and the right to own.

He promised that Iraq's nuclear weapons capability would be destroyed. "I hope it will go peacefully. If not, it must go by force."

On Britain's role in the world, the prime minister said that Britain, alone among nations, stood at the hub of three great interlocking alliances: Nato, the European Community and the Commonwealth. At the Commonwealth conference next week, Britain had to persuade 50 nations, some with a chequered political history, to a formal commitment to democracy and human rights, he said. He hoped to see South Africa return to the Commonwealth.

Turning to the Community, he said: "I believe strongly in partnership in Europe. Britain is a great European power, and she has gained from membership of the community. That is the verdict of those people in our country who live by business and trade, the very people on whom our prosperity and jobs depend. But it must be the right Europe."

He wanted a community that would embrace the new democracies of eastern Europe; a single open market, with common rules that were obeyed. "We need a system that can deal effectively with those who call themselves 'good Europeans' but who hijack lorries or hold up free trade," he said.

The idea of a single European currency had enormous practical and political ramifications and, at best, was an uncertain prospect. "Any treaty must provide for a separate decision to be taken — not now, but at a future date — by the British government and the British parliament. It is our decision. A single currency cannot be imposed upon us. I would not accept on behalf of Britain any treaty which sought to impose a single currency at however distant a date."

Britain already worked closely with its European partners in financial, foreign and defence policies. When national and community interests coincided, common action was only common

sense, but in no circumstances would a Conservative government give up the national right to take crucial decisions about security, foreign policy and defence.

He offered no guarantee of an agreement at Maastricht in December because it was no easy task to get 12 nations to agree and, for his part, he would put the interests of this country before any agreement, and not any agreement before the interests of the country.

"I hope we can reach agreement. If we do, I will submit that agreement to parliament, for it is here in Britain that the crucial decisions must be taken, not in the European parliament and not in the council of ministers, certainly not in the commission," he said. "It will be for parliament to decide on behalf of the people of Britain who elected it."

Referring to the latest inflation figures, he said that, for the first time in a generation, inflation was down to German levels. "They said we could not do it. We did it, and in just one year." He went on: "We can now see the way ahead out of recession to the recovery that will bring investment, to the investment that will bring jobs."

Mocking Labour's plans, he said that the next Labour manifesto "will be the biggest tax demand in history".

He pledged the government to keeping personal taxes down and said that lower taxes gave people more choice. In the Eighties the Tories had started a revolution but it was not complete. In the 1990s, they would extend savings and ownership in every form. They now had the chance to make enduring change, for people in their middle years were inheriting homes, businesses and firms on a scale never before seen.

"I want to see wealth cascading down the generations. We do not see each generation starting off anew, with the past cut off and the future ignored. So in the next parliament, I believe that we must go much further in encouraging every family to save and to own."

Labour, he said, fostered the old, false and futile divisions based on class and envy. "Our task is to end them for good."

In his classless society, he wanted to see a tapestry of talents in which everyone respected achievement, where every promotion and certificate was respected and each person's contribution valued.

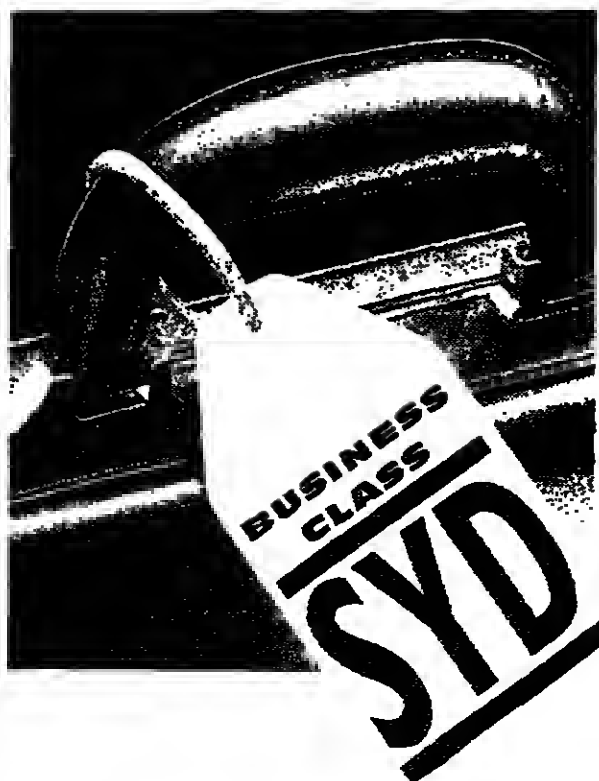
But there could be no harmony in a lawless society, and the government was going to crack down on crime.

Speaking about planned improvements in education, Mr Major said: "A great deal has been written about my education. Never has so much been written about so little. (Laughter) Perhaps that is why I am so keen on the subject."

He went on: "It will take more than platitudes in Brighton to efface the years of left-wing vandalism in our classrooms. We will take no lectures from those who led the long march of mediocrity through our schools."

"I will fight for my belief in a return to basics in education. The progressive theorists have had their say and they have had their day."

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Applause greets castration call

By PETER MULLIGAN

A CALL for the castration of child abusers and rapists was applauded by the Tories yesterday during a debate marked by anxiety over standards of care and control of children.

Geoffrey Dickens, MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, roused the conference when he announced his prescription for molesters and rapists who offended more than once. "Castrate the buggers," he said.

His was the bluntest in a series of speeches from the floor which underlined unease at family breakdown, lack of supervision and the involvement in riots of children as young as six.

Mr Dickens lifted a debate on the family when he described his dream of a country where women could walk without fear and children could grow up without risk of abuse. He claimed ministerial backing when he urged the recruitment into social services departments of "strict-grannies" who would not be fobbed off by parents abusing children.

Virginia Bottomley, health minister, responded by highlighting the Children Act, which comes into force on Monday and which, she said, would tackle abuse head-on.

She acknowledged that social workers had made mistakes in the past but said that the act put the emphasis in the right place: on children themselves and on their families.

CHILDREN

She said it was intolerable that children should become the victims of abuse while in care or be snatched away from home unless they were in serious danger. She added: "Time and time again, from



Bottomley: acknowledged mistakes in social work so-called joyriders to horrific instances of child abuse, when the basic cohesiveness of the family unit breaks down, crime, degeneracy, violence and horror break to the surface of our society. When parents give up caring, children, sometimes literally, run riot."

Mrs Bottomley concluded: "The challenge now is to work within the act to eliminate the tragedies of failure."

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دعواتك

Patten urges mass phone protests on broadcasting bias

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE supporters were urged yesterday to jam the switchboards of broadcasting organisations when they wanted to protest about alleged anti-Tory bias on radio and television.

The next issue of the party newspaper is to contain the addresses and telephone numbers of all the broadcasting organisations to help the Tory offensive against perceived bias.

With both main political parties carrying out intensive pre-election campaigning, Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, gave his endorsement to an all-out effort to combat alleged anti-Conservative bias by broadcasters.

"I know that many of you are deeply concerned about bias in broadcasting and often, too often, understandably so," Mr Patten told the conference. "When you are angry about bias in a programme on BBC, ITV, whatever, tell me by all means, but more importantly tell them. Phone them, write to them, above all phone them on the spot. If necessary jam the switchboards."

"If you don't like the Six O'clock News or Nine O'clock News, if you don't like Panorama, then phone up." The party was not asking for Conservative broadcasts but it had a right in a democracy to ask for fair broadcasting, he said.

His call for action to combat alleged bias delighted the party's rank and file who are concerned that the party is

failing to get its message across effectively. In a further revelation of the techniques the Tories will pursue in the run-up to polling day, Mr Patten said each constituency should have teams of workers to write letters to local newspapers, monitor all broadcasts, and call in to phone-in programmes.

He admitted that the last year "had not been easy for the party" and he was critical of the way in which the Conservatives had failed to give greater attention to organisation during Margaret Thatcher's years in power.

"I am not sure that over the last decade we have always given political organisation the priority it deserves," he said. It was complete bodge to suggest that political organisation did not matter.

Recognising the party's failings in campaigning, he said it must look harder at how it operated and do it much better. "We cannot go on taking the party organisation seriously for six months before an election and forget about it for the four and a half years after it." He said that the party would have to continue its vigilance after the general election.

Mr Patten promised fuller discussion throughout the party on its future funding and organisation. After recent revelations about big donations to the party's coffers from foreign businessmen, Mr

Patten is anxious to be more open about the sources of the party's funds.

The party's organisation and Central Office's management of its finances were strongly criticised by the treasurer of the Wessex area, John Stratford, who won loud applause during the debate on party policy and organisation. "We must improve our organisation at Central Office and we must improve the control of expenditure and how that hard earned income is spent. We must have democratic accountability within the Conservative party," he said.

Charles Hendry, the prospective parliamentary candidate for High Peak, Derbyshire, reminded ministers that part of their job was to help get the Conservative message across. He added: "The party is stuffed to the gills with PR men, advertising agencies and the rest. Let us use them the way Labour uses its friends in the media."



Engaging performance: Chris Patten calls for action

Councils to be stopped from favouring own staff

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to tighten rules on the contracting out of local authority services to prevent councils awarding themselves most of the contracts.

Although councils are required by law to put services such as refuse collection and street cleaning out to private tender, more than two thirds of contracts are still awarded to their own staff.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, says he believes that many councils have deliberately drawn up contracts in such a way that

only their own staff can win them. In calculating the cost of an outside bid, councils have also been including the cost of making their staff redundant, putting private firms at a significant disadvantage. The government department has drawn up draft legislation to prevent the loading of redundancy costs on to tender prices. It will also ban councils from specifying working practices for staff employed by contractors and will lay down new guidelines on the assessment of tenders to ensure that councils cannot favour in-

house bids. The measures, the most far reaching changes since competitive tendering was made compulsory in 1988, will be contained in one of two local government bills to be announced in the Queen's speech next month.

The Cabinet decided last week to divide its plans for the future of local government between two parliamentary bills instead of one as originally planned by government business managers.

The first will introduce the council tax and the second will overhaul the way councils are run, set up a local government commission to review the structure of local government in England and contain the tendering rules.

At present councils are required to put only services such as street cleaning and refuse collection out to tender. The bill will require them to open to competition white collar tasks such as legal and financial services too.

The council tax bill will be placed on a "fast track", with government business managers ready to use guillotine procedures to ensure that it reaches the statute book by the end of March.

Man from the people

THE image makers may not have got to work on John Major but the party managers were determined that he would make a dramatic entrance to the conference.

A flurry of activity at the back of the hall indicated that the prime minister was to make a theatrical arrival. Mr Major and his wife Norma looked apprehensive as they stood with Chris Patten, the party chairman, on a staircase, awaiting the moment to sur-

prise the faithful. Then to the strains of Johann Strauss's "Radetzky March", Mr Major walked into the hall and on to the platform, shaking hands with party workers.

The idea was to present an image of him as a man from the people and at ease with the people. Unlike Labour, which ended its conference with a rendition of "We are the Champions", the Tories stuck with their traditional "Land of Hope and Glory" and "I Vow to Thee my Country".

Party swings to same old song with new melody

They hummed along to fresh interpretations of familiar themes, but Robin Oakley hears discordant echoes of a song for Europe

It was / instead of we. Self-deprecation was never her line. And there were other changes. As with Europe, John Major's crucial keynote speech showed him changing the Tory party more in style and tone than in substance. The essentials of economic management remain the same: privatisation; fighting inflation.

But with the need to battle those "time for a change" arguments in mind, John Major offered a new flavour of Conservatism. The boy from Coldharbour Lane who preaches the classless society was able to remind the national television audience that the past two leaders before him were a builder's son from Broadstairs and a grocer's daughter from Grantham and to declare with conviction that the Tory party was the party of opportunity.

He declared that the Tories were not only the friends of the national health service but part of it. He is coming at the C2s from a different angle.

We wondered if it was to be continuity or change as the Tories moved into their first conference since Margaret Thatcher lost the leadership and Mr Major gained it.

Through the week, the answer seemed confused. Government competence is not an exciting theme. "Getting on with the job" sounds too much like waiting for something to turn up and praying for people to start spending the interest rate cuts they are still saving. Conservatives kept looking for the string on which to thread their beads. And perhaps it is too much to expect of a party 12 years in office to produce as many new ideas as they did in the pre-election conference of 1986.

We heard rather too much of what they are against - which seemed to be mostly the trade unions - and little of what they were for. But slowly, after a scratchy start, the party got over its overcautious about Europe, its hang-ups on the health service. And Mr Major's speech offered a freshness, a new style that was widely welcomed. He remains the party's highest electoral asset.

The Tories left Blackpool with a better pitch on the health service. Tough words from Mr Major and from

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, should calm the privatisation scare and if the argument is switched to one purely about funding, then Labour has its weak spots too.

Mr Major has at least a good holding line on Europe, a subject on which the wider party takes a harder line than his MPs, even if the substance has changed little.

The remaining problem is Mrs Thatcher. In dealing with that question the party opted to fight an election rather than contemplate its own navel, not repeating Labour's mistake of the Eighties. But we saw flickers of the kind of split between the parliamentary party and the constituency activists which bedevilled Labour politics for so long.

The cheers and foot-stamping for Mrs Thatcher were genuine as the platform went through the ritual of what one senior Tory called "showing them the body". And the Tory hierarchy remain nervous about her disruptive potential. If they were not, we would not be seeing Willie Whitelaw urging her publicly to accept that the party is under new management.

But as senior figures were pointing out on the Tory cocktail circuit, the same people who cheered Mrs Thatcher's five-day speeches often used to turn up and applaud the fringe meetings at which Michael Heseltine outlined an altogether different version of Toryism.

"The Tory party," said one, "is not about policy. It is about power and the people who can provide it." That is why, when Mr Heseltine strode back onto the conference platform and beat the Tory tribal toms, the feelings about the way of Mrs Thatcher's going and his part in it were so rapidly forgotten. Mr Heseltine has star quality too, and never mind if he comes from a different firmament. It is not a scintillating party.

The hope is that now the keys have been handed over Mrs Thatcher can be persuaded to keep quiet about the new people's taste in curtains. But the party managers fear that the question of her relationship with the new team will become inextricably mixed up with the issue of Europe, making both even harder to resolve.



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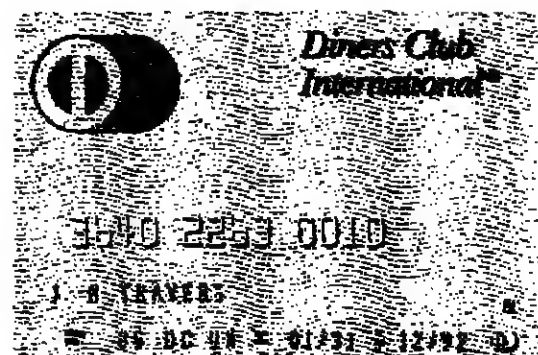
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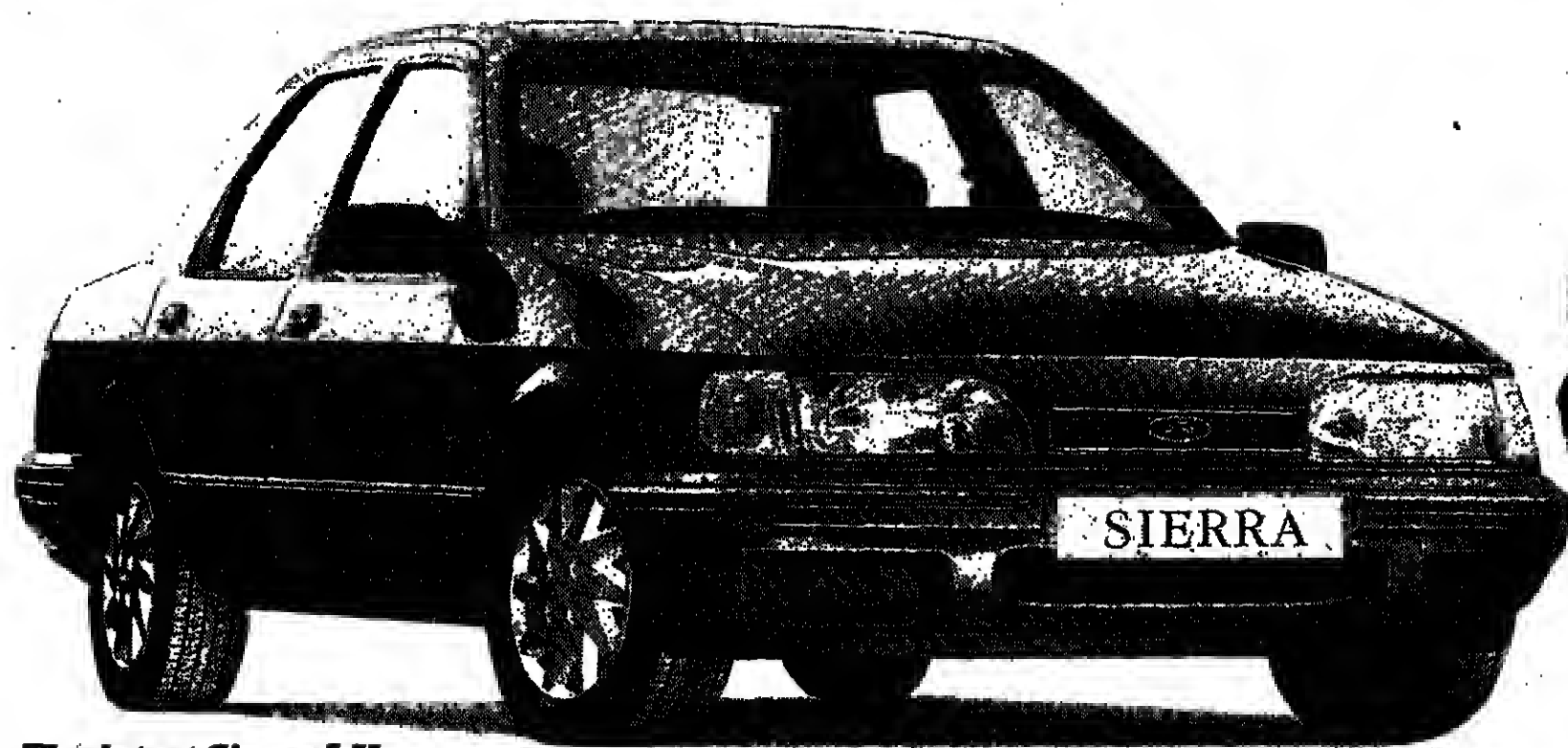
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Replacement lined up for Endurance

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE officials are close to clinching a deal to charter a Norwegian icebreaker to replace the Falklands veteran HMS Endurance in the south Atlantic this winter.

Although officials are still refusing to acknowledge the decision to scrap the Endurance, Tom King, the defence secretary, is expected to announce the deal to lease the Polar Circle during the Commons defence debate next week. The agreement ends months of uncertainty about the fate of the Endurance,

built in 1956, Britain's only "warship" in the south Atlantic.

The defence ministry said: "Discussions have been in progress with Polar Circle's owners. An announcement will be made very shortly and discussions have reached an advanced stage."

The announcement of plans to withdraw the Endurance in 1981 helped to provoke General Galt's invasion of the Falklands by signalling apparent British loss of interest in the region.

At the time of the invasion, the ice patrol ship remained as Britain's only naval vessel in the area until the arrival of the task force. One of its two Wasp helicopters disabled the Argentine submarine Santa Fe and helped to recapture the island of South Georgia before returning in glory to Britain.

Endurance was bought second hand in 1967 and was named after the ship lost in Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition of 1914-6. His son, Lord Shackleton, yesterday described the decision to replace Endurance as a victory for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who had objected to the defence ministry's plans for removing it.

Mr Hurd is understood to have protested that withdrawing such a symbol of British interest in the region would again send the wrong signals to Argentina and the other signatories to the Antarctic treaty.

Officers from Endurance, including her captain Bob Turner, are understood to be on board the Polar Circle in Bergen to see what changes are needed for it to carry out the Endurance's naval, surveying and research roles.

Leif Sorensen, managing director of the Norwegian owner, Rieber AS, said yesterday: "We are still negotiating some clauses but I think the lease will be ready to sign on Monday."

Carbuncles on faces of saintly friends

By MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE
CORRESPONDENT

CHURCHES and churchyards are being ruined by unsympathetic extensions, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings says.

In the past, a parish wanting extra space for activities usually built a church hall elsewhere in the village. Today, says Philip Venning, the society's secretary, it demands facilities attached to the church. "There is a positive fear that if people have to venture out of doors for a cup of coffee, they will simply melt away," he said.

One reason is that an 1834 act on burial grounds lays down that any new building in a parish churchyard must be attached to the church. The society believes that most parish churches cannot be added to without causing archaeological, historic or aesthetic damage.

Parishes should carry out judicious and reversible rearrangements of the less used parts of the interior, Mr Venning says. "We are also concerned that some parishes overstretch themselves in building ambitious extensions when they already have difficulty in raising funds to keep the church in repair."

One church in Hampshire "was heartily relieved when



Greenhouse effect: the extension to Christ Church, Virginia Water, described as "in painful contrast" to the weathered brick of the church

a clumsy 1960s extension caught fire from a missile thrown from the local pub. It had become a nightmare to maintain," he said.

English Heritage is also concerned. Neil Burton, one of its inspectors, said: "A pattern has developed whereby churches come to us over a period of years for

grant aid on structural repairs. When they are almost complete, they suddenly decide to sell the church hall, and apply for consent to add on to the church which we have helped to repair so carefully."

The SPAB insists that, if an extension is to be built, "it must be modest in size and

scale, subservient to the church, and built of sympathetic materials which do honour to the original". The standard of materials, details and finishes should be higher and more expensive on an extension than on a hall built away from the church.

"Monstrosities" and "excrescences" singled out by

the society include a two-storey extension to St Mary's, Watford, Hertfordshire, "a gross intrusion into a beautiful churchyard"; Christ Church, Virginia Water, Surrey, "a shiny glass box in painful contrast to the weathered brick of the church"; and St Mary's, Great Bentley, Essex, "a

council house style extension to a fine stone church".

The society was founded in 1877 by William Morris, who was outraged at the damage being done to ancient parish churches and cathedrals by over-zealous restoration.

Enthusiasms, Review p18

Lay choice of judges opposed

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

LORD Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, has come out against a judicial appointments commission in which lay people would help in the selection of judges, as advocated within the legal profession.

The present system for appointing judges was not infallible, Lord Donaldson told Plymouth Law Society last night, but added: "You do not set up a committee with a large lay element to advise on the appointment of consultant surgeons."

A judicial appointments commission, which is Labour party policy, now has the support of the Law Society and the backing of bar leaders, including the chairman of the bar. However senior judges, including the Lord Chancellor, oppose the idea.

Lord Donaldson also went on to attack a proposal by Tony Holland, past president of the Law Society, that lawyers without experience of advocacy could and should be appointed to the Court of Appeal.

Social workers feared violence from Orkney families

By KERRY GILL

PARENTS at the centre of the Orkney child abuse allegations were given no support by social workers after their children were seized from their homes on the island of South Ronaldsay last February, it was admitted yesterday. The senior social worker concerned said staff feared the parents might subject them to violence if they ventured on to the island.

It emerged that the fear of violence and a lack of staff led the social work department to

ignore guidelines laid down after the Cleveland report. Sue Millar, under cross-examination, told the judicial enquiry that even if she and her colleagues had offered to help the parents it was unlikely they would have been made welcome.

Mrs Millar, a key figure in the operation to take the nine children of four families, said the parents may have been so hostile they would have threatened the social work staff with physical violence.

After the allegations were made and the children seized

the community was left aghast. Within hours of the seizures friends and neighbours offered their support to the families. Hundreds of islanders gathered in the community hall in St Margaret's Hope, South Ronaldsay's biggest village, to discuss ways of getting the children returned. Shortly afterwards an action group was formed to fight for the parents' case.

Yesterday Mrs Millar, aged 36, claimed she was uneasy about the lack of support offered but pointed out that

Orkney had approached every social work department in Scotland for help. In spite of the plea only nine social workers offered their services.

"We were very much dependent on the goodwill of other authorities," said Mrs Millar, who was also unhappy about the amount of information her department had on the families before police and social workers took the children away. Mrs Millar added under cross-examination by Edward Targowski, QC, for the families: "I believe in such traumatic circumstances I

would have thought about parental support but I would not have been very sure about the reception we would have received from the parents in the circumstances."

She agreed with Mr Targowski that the recommendations in the Cleveland report included involving parents, even if they were thought to be abusers and were hostile, in planning for their children's care. But Mrs Millar added: "I think if parents' hostility was going to include threats of physical violence we would have to draw the boundaries

for staff." Mrs Millar spent a week on the mainland explaining to social workers who volunteered their services what they were expected to do.

On her return, two days before the raids, she found that little had been discovered about the families and that no planning for parental support had been done. She urged Paul Lee, social work director, to allocate a social worker to each family but, in spite of pressure from her, this was not done.

The hearing continues on Monday.



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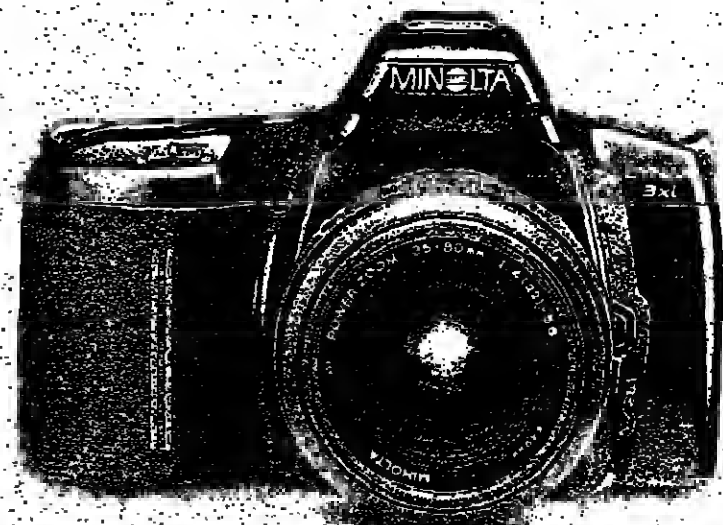
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Wagoners with tank guns, meaning at the time that the tank was in between the two where a section of the line had been broken. The driver reported from the village that the occupied area which will mark tomorrow's battlefield is being attacked by Soviet tanks and heavy guns.

Yemen's only newspaper, *Al-Balad*, said the government would be over all local and international attempts to encourage a Middle East peace plan, the Baker plan, to end the fighting on the eighth day of the week, part of his message.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

UN poised to adopt sweeping nuclear search rights in Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS UNITED Nations inspectors flew to Baghdad to investigate Iraq's efforts to build a hydrogen bomb, the security council prepared yesterday to impose the most intrusive controls ever on the country's future nuclear research.

Council members were expected to adopt a resolution late last night prohibiting Iraq from any nuclear activity — including electricity generation — except for work with isotopes for medical treatment and some geological, agricultural and environmental research. The resolution, based on reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN Special Commission charged with dismantling Iraq, would also seek to prevent Iraq from developing chemical, biological or ballistic weapons into the indefinite future.

The sweeping controls include the right of UN inspectors to comb the country almost at will and "to request, receive, examine, retain, copy and remove any record, data and information". Iraq will be barred from importing a wide range of materials that can be used to build nuclear, chemical, biological and ballistic weapons and the Iraqi government will be required to adopt laws making it a criminal offence for citizens to develop the forbidden arms or to manufacture materials for them.

"This is how we stop Iraq in the long-term from picking up and carrying on," Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the UN, said. "One, we

have a very restrictive trade regime which we hope will prevent some of the things they managed to buy before being bought in future. The other is that we have this highly elaborate intelligence pool of continuing inspection efforts."

As the UN Security Council prepared to vote, a seventh team of nuclear inspectors flew to Iraq to resume their search for Baghdad's secret nuclear weapons programme. Dimitri Pericco, the team leader, said the 39 inspectors would be looking into Iraq's attempt to develop a hydrogen weapon, possibly one hundred times more powerful than a normal nuclear device. Documents seized by the last UN nuclear inspection team, which was detained for five days in a Baghdad car park, revealed that Iraq had begun production of Lithium-6, an isotope used only in hydrogen bombs.

"The fact [that they had] Lithium-6 just shows that they had been anticipating they are going to be having a prolonged programme, that they are going into the next step which is boosting of a weapon or going on the thermonuclear weapon," Mr Pericco said.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted a deputy chairman of Iraq's Atomic Energy Organisation as saying that UN officials were "grossly exaggerating" the country's nuclear potential. The official, who was not named, insisted there was "a systematic campaign of exaggeration and intimidation targeting Iraq's scientific research".

Mr Pericco, a Greek, said his team would begin its inspections today in three different zones in Iraq. "We will be looking at three areas — nuclear material, enrichment processing and weaponisation," he said. The US Defence Department said on Thursday that two nuclear sites in Iraq survived Gulf War bombing — one at al-Atheer, 40 miles south of Baghdad, and one at Furat, closer to the capital.

A second UN inspection team also arrived in Baghdad yesterday to continue to hunt down Iraq's ballistic missiles. Douglas Englund and his colleagues left Iraq only on Wednesday after destroying 28 Scud launching sites and one assembled and four partially built "superguns". He said the 20-member team had returned to clarify discrepancies between the number of missiles Iraq has declared and the number UN experts believe exist.

UN officials say Iraq did not declare several missile launcher pads and there was also confusion about whether or not all its Scud had been destroyed. The two new teams join a 50-strong "super-team" already working to destroy Iraq's chemical weapons at the Muthanna installation north-east of Baghdad.



Honeymoon blues: Larry Fortensky, who married Elizabeth Taylor last weekend, appearing in the Corona municipal court, California, to face drink-drive charges. The court case was adjourned after a date had been set for another hearing.

Luther King 'was guilty of plagiarism' over thesis

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A COMMITTEE of scholars has concluded that Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader and Nobel peace prize winner assassinated in 1968, was guilty of plagiarism in his doctoral thesis.

The panel at Boston university found that about one fifth of King's 1955 dissertation on the work of two theologians contained direct quotations or altered passages from other works without proper attribution. "There is no question but that Dr King plagiarised in the dissertation by appropriating material from sources not explicitly credited in notes, or mistakenly credited, or credited generally and at some distance in the text from a close paraphrase or verbatim quotation," the scholars said.

The plagiarism charge delivers a new blow to King's reputation. Last year, a biography by the Rev Ralph Abernathy, another civil rights campaigner, alleged that King spent time with a woman the night before he died.

Allegations of King's plagiarism first surfaced in the *Mandela* column of *The Sunday Telegraph* in December 1989. But American publications, reluctant to tarnish the country's best-known black civil rights activist, were slow to pick them up. King's papers are handled by the King Papers Project under a professor chosen by Coretta Scott King, his widow, who keeps a close eye on how her former husband is portrayed.

An investigation into the charges was launched last year only after *The Wall Street Journal* carried a front-page exposé of the charges, made by academics working on papers at Stanford university.

The Boston panel said that most plagiarised passages

were in the body of the dissertation, leaving the conclusions intact. They decided to attach a letter listing their findings to the official copy of King's dissertation in the university library. But they ruled that the dissertation — *A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman* — did represent "an intelligent contribution to scholarship" and that King's doctorate should not be revoked.

Little Havana prepares for a post-Castro era

Cuba's communist party congress is only a sideshow for thousands of exiles planning a return to the island, Martin Fletcher reports

WHEN Fidel Castro goes, Cesar Garcia will ship his entire used car business, the Bonanza Auto Centre, from Miami to Cuba. Louis Galido will sell his popular Latin American cafeteria in Miami's Little Havana and re-open the cabaret he abandoned when he fled the real Havana in 1959. Carlos Alamillo, a packaged food magnate, has booked freighters to deliver daily relief shipments to Cuba of packet soup and macaroni cheese.

To Miami's million Cuban exiles, this week's Cuban communist party congress in Santiago de Cuba is an irrelevant side show incapable of saving President Castro's skin. Abandoned by the Soviet Union, his country in appalling economic straits, the exiles insist that it is no longer a question of whether the ageing Cuban revolutionary will go but when.

Soon is their answer, and not just they but almost every authority, every business and every institution in south Florida have remarkably advanced contingency plans. When the moment for which these exiles have waited three decades finally arrives, there will be an upheaval such as this region has never seen.

Predicting a sudden, vast and chaotic exodus of Cubans seeking to reach the United States, the US coast-guard will effectively block the 90 miles of ocean between Cuba and the mainland, turning back not only an armada of everything floatable from Cuba, but also an anticipated fleet of private yachts from Florida going to pick up relatives.

Cars driving up from the Keys will be searched for Cubans who managed to reach those islands. Miami airport anticipates thousands of extra passengers in the first few days and another million a year thereafter.

Miami's authorities are planning for perhaps 72 hours of wild street celebrations by hundreds of thousands of Cuban Americans that will create "a massive public safety concern" and cause potentially crippling absenteeism in essential services. Calle Ocho, or Eighth Street, running through the heart of Little Havana, will be lined with police around the clock and the Orange Bowl baseball stadium will be thrown open to try to contain post-Castro mania. The Orange Bowl has a special significance for the exiles as the place where President Kennedy promised Bay of Pigs soldiers in 1962 that he would return their flag when Cuba was free.

A dozen diverse groups are drawing up comprehensive blueprints for a post-Castro Cuba, the most prominent being the Cuban American National Foundation, the exiles' largest representative body. Jorge Mas Canosa, its chairman, allegedly aspires to be liberated Cuba's first president. The foundation has some 300 experts working on studies ranging from the peaceful demobilisation of Cuba's military to rebuilding its basic industries and removing ideology from its education system.

Francisco Hernandez, its president, believes that Cuba can be turned around in a fraction of the time it will take East European countries. He is confident that after so many years of socialism the Cuban people will embrace the foundation's brand of unashamed capitalism but admits one problem: "I hope Castro won't go before maybe March of next year because we won't be ready."

Informal surveys suggest that nearly half the 50,000-60,000 Cuban American businesses would want to invest in Cuba.

Israeli troops killed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

A PALESTINIAN driver seeking to avenge last year's Temple Mount shootings drove a stolen van into a group of Israeli soldiers yesterday, killing two and leaving 11 others injured.

The incident threatened to prompt fresh violence last night. It capped a week of provocative actions by both Arab and Israeli extremists opposed to this week's visit to the region by James Baker, the American Secretary of State. "It is one other terrible deed by terrorists," Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said after the incident. "We will react accordingly."

Witnesses said that the attack took place yesterday morning at the Tel Hasbomer junction, on the main highway between Tel Aviv and Haifa, where soldiers from a nearby military base usually wait to hitch lifts in civilian vehicles. A stolen van with Israeli licence plates was reported to have gone through a red light and veered into the soldiers before crashing into a shelter and overturning.

The driver was seized by civilians and held until the police arrived. The police said later that he had confessed to the attack and had claimed it was in retaliation for the killing of 18 Palestinians by Israeli police on the Temple Mount on October 8 last year. The driver reportedly came from the village of Qibya in the occupied West Bank, which will mark the 38th anniversary on Monday of a revenge attack by Israeli paratroopers which left 66 civilians dead.

Yesterday's incident happened only hours after Mr Baker had predicted that there would be more attacks by both Israeli and Palestinian extremists attempting to sabotage his attempts at convening a Middle East peace conference later this month. Mr Baker is due to arrive in Cairo tomorrow on the first leg of his eighth visit to the region this year as part of his diplomatic initiative.

Until yesterday's attack attention was focused on right-wing members of Mr Shamir's coalition government who took part in the seizure of property by Jewish settlers in the Arab east Jerusalem district of Silwan, creating renewed tension in the city in the run-up to Mr Baker's arrival here on Wednesday.

Ankara strikes at Kurds

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN EYRBAKAR

TURKEY has flown bombing runs into Iraqi territory to avenge the death last Monday of 11 Turkish soldiers who were attacked by Kurdish separatists at a military frontier post near the town of Cukurca. Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish prime minister, speaking to reporters covering the general election campaign, said that eight planes had attacked targets about four miles from the Turkish frontier.

At the beginning of August, the Turks carried out similar retaliatory air strikes accompanied by action on the ground. Mr Yilmaz would not say yesterday whether land forces would be involved.

Commentators during the August raids cast doubt on their military effectiveness. Wollat Ibrahim, the senior doctor in the Kurdish hospital in the northern Iraqi city of Diyarbakir, complained recently that previous air attacks had harmed Iraqi Kurdish civilians rather than the Kurdish Workers' party activists against whom they were intended. He said that Turkey was trying to warn the Kurdish leadership in Iraq not to support the party.

Ever since the Kurdish uprising across its border last March, Turkish foreign policy makers have been divided on whether to change their traditional line which sees any Kurdish autonomy abroad as an incitement to insurrection. A view gaining ground is that a client relationship with the Kurds of northern Iraq may be the best way of keeping the lid on those indigenous Kurds who take up arms against the Turkish state.

French musical epic tries its old magic on Parisians

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A DECADE and more after the musical *Les Misérables* first achieved modest success in Paris, the show that has now been seen by nearly 20 million people around the world is to open here again tonight.

All the songs and dialogue have been revised back into French, most of the cast is French and the advance publicity hails "a French epic that

set everyone singing". It remains only for French audiences in the Théâtre Mogador to be swept away by a spectacle that so thrilled those at the Barbican and on Broadway. But will Jean Valjean, Cosette, the implacable Inspector Javert and the rest of the cast be able to work the same magic with Victor Hugo's compatriots today, whose enthusiasm for grandly staged musicals does not always match that of the anglo-saxons?

While Victor Hugo may still be the nearest the French have

of exile that Hugo passed in Jersey and Guernsey. "We had almost forgotten about that great achievement," one observed in a preview of the show in *Le Figaro* the other day. "It needed a triumph in America to remind us that dear Victor belongs to us here."

No matter, the stage is set at the Mogador, even if the director, John Caird, and the designer, John Napier, are both British. The words and music for the original adaptation that played at the Palais des Sports in 1980 were, after all, the work of two talented Frenchmen, Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg. Both are millionaires now and they have been labouring for the past year to turn the English version back into their own language.

As for the Scottish producer with the golden touch, Cameron Mackintosh, he is reported to be delighted — for reasons of showbiz superstition, one presumes — to have discovered that the architect of the Mogador was from his side of the Channel.

While it does not come easily for the French to heap praise upon the achievements of foreigners, *Le Figaro* concluded with the handsome acknowledgement that although he speaks no French and has never read Hugo's masterpiece, it is thanks to Mr Mackintosh that its author has become "a worldwide superstar".



Mackintosh: has made Hugo "a worldwide superstar" to a truly national poet — "alas," observed André Gide in 1902, bemoaning the lack of contemporary competition — much of his work has been gathering dust for years. Even *Les Misérables*, some heretical critics have pointed out, was completed outside France, during the long years

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Call for a common foreign policy endangers EC unity



Genscher: does not share French views on America

A CALL by France, Germany and Spain yesterday for a common foreign and defence policy for the European Community will divide further the community's governments at the end of a sour-tempered week which has reduced sharply chances of EC leaders signing a treaty at the Maastricht summit in eight weeks.

The joint statement by the three foreign ministers does not change the arguments with which France and Germany have advanced their vision of the EC as a diplomatic and military power which might one day act independently of America. But the communiqué uncompromisingly rejects the Nato-oriented stance taken a week ago by Britain and

As the key players work on the final negotiations before the Maastricht summit, George Brock reports from Brussels that the treaty is still at risk

Italy. The emphasis on the use of majority voting for some decisions in joint foreign policy underlines the French and German hope that Britain, which is fiercely resisting the proposal, can be isolated in the last stage of negotiations over the EC's political union treaty. The EC's key players are thus entering the last lap of negotiations almost as far apart on foreign and defence policy as they were when the treaty talks began in January. Diplomats here have dis-

creetly changed the language they use about the run-up to the Maastricht summit, which may turn into one of the most divisive in EC history. Until this week, they would talk about plans to "sign" a treaty on monetary and political union in Maastricht. Talk of signatures is now rare. The most optimistic say that, at best, the EC's leaders will be able to settle outstanding disagreements for a treaty to be ready for signing early next year. Pessimists who say the EC

is overreaching itself have been in the ascendant. As the talks on monetary union have moved steadily towards an agreement, the treaty conference on political union is in an acrimonious mess. Dutch politicians and officials discuss openly the possibility that the talks cannot meet the Maastricht deadline. The small EC states suspect once again that France and Germany are trying to boss the community about. The French government is worrying whether its long-standing partnership with Germany is strong enough to do any such thing. Much mainstream opinion here this year has maintained that John Major and Douglas Hurd would come round to some, if not all, the federalist

schemes in the treaty texts under discussion. As Mr Hurd continues politely to insist that there is a raft of things in the treaty draft which he doesn't like, the assumption that Britain will swallow its reservations at the last moment is not held as widely as it was. Over the past week Mr Hurd has been chairing the cabinet committee which is setting Britain's bottom line on the unresolved issues. Britain may agree to make concessions on extending the EC's competence, increasing the scope of majority voting outside foreign and defence policy and even perhaps allow the European parliament some new power. But the deep gulfs between Britain, France and Ger-

many over foreign and defence policy are beginning to look unbridgeable. In his speech to the Tory conference, Mr Hurd dismissed talk of majority voting in EC foreign policy as "wasted breath". This is the language of a minister expecting a shuddering collision on this issue during the next month. On an eventual EC defence policy, Mr Hurd may well succeed in persuading a solid majority to back the idea of developing Europe's defence inside the familiar framework of the Atlantic alliance. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, may have signed yesterday's Paris communiqué which made no mention of Nato at all, but he has also been busy signing

vaguely worded documents expressing agreement with James Baker, the American Secretary of State. Germany does not share France's desire to move Europe from under the American wing. But on foreign policy, Mr Hurd will struggle to avert a deadlock. A proposal to use majority votes to decide the "implementation" of joint foreign policy is backed by everyone except Britain, Portugal and Denmark. Mr Hurd thinks there is no safe way to divide foreign affairs into bits that can be settled by majority and those that require unanimous votes. Watching the EC's foreign ministers trying to hold a common line over Yugoslavia has only hardened his view.

Grudging gestures may help to shore up shaky Yugoslav ceasefire

Army reneges on pact but sieges are lifted

From DESSA TREVISAN in BELGRADE AND ANNE MCILVOY in ZAGREB

DEFYING the accord reached only 24 hours earlier in The Hague, Serbian leaders and the federal army last night refused to pull the army out of Croatia and said that it would stay there until there is a political solution in Yugoslavia.

The move not only appeared to slam the door in the face of the European Community's latest peace efforts, but it also increases the possibility of a new round of fighting. The state presidency, which now consists only of four members representing the Serbian bloc, said that the withdrawal of federal troops was "totally unacceptable" as this would leave the Serbian population exposed to "physical liquidation".

The disclaimer issued by Belgrade appears to indicate that headline army generals refused to implement any commitment to withdraw even after it had been agreed by General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister. It is rumoured that he is no longer in control of the armed forces. Heavy fighting continued

yesterday around Osijek and Karlovac. An EC convoy carrying food and medicine to the besieged town of Vukovar in eastern Croatia came under heavy mortar fire as it approached the town and was reported to be stranded outside. On the Adriatic coast, federal forces began evacuating the port of Zadar, lifting the naval blockade there but the port of Dubrovnik was still surrounded.

Meanwhile, Croat forces yesterday began lifting the four-week blockade of the Borongaj army barracks in Zagreb in a grudging gesture of compromise intended to hold in place the ceasefire. The 600 soldiers trapped inside the base were expected to be evacuated early today. The move is the result of a trade-off between the forces of the breakaway republic and the army. Federal forces were to withdraw with their ammunition and weapons but without tanks to Bihać in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But the spirit of the blockade's removal was far from generous. The Croat guards who moved the tank traps,

mines and barricades yesterday afternoon were surly. "We are following the orders we were given," said one. "But what is the point of just letting the army regroup in Bosnia? They will just start attacking us again next time."

In the early afternoon an army officer emerged in front of the bullet-holed gates to exchange a curt, wordless salute with a Croat militiaman and it was clear that a deal had been done. But the solution to a dangerous local problem came as the army said it did not intend to withdraw from Croatia within the next month, contradicting the pledge given by General Kadijevic during Thursday's talks in The Hague. Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said on Thursday that the army would pull out of Croatia if a political settlement could be reached within a month.

● Rome: Italy called yesterday for the European Community's Yugoslav peace talks in The Hague to be raised from foreign ministerial level to prime ministerial level to give them more weight. (Reuters)



Scorched earth: a Croat national guardsman running for his life from the burning village of Badjevin, near Pankrac, yesterday

Last waltz for Marx but party not over

From ROGER BOYES in SOFIA

A STUMBLING Karl Marx dances with a beautiful woman in a red mask, watched by secret policemen in trenchcoats and a nubile figure in a Soviet army uniform. That is the expertly produced, if over-long, party political broadcast on behalf of the Bulgarian opposition. Its message is quite clear: tomorrow's elections will be the last waltz of the communists in Eastern Europe.

It will be a close run thing, however. Support for the communists — who won 211 out of 400 parliamentary seats in last year's elections, bucking the European trend — is still surprisingly robust. The statue of Lenin that used to stare at the windows of the arch-capitalist Sheraton hotel in the centre of Sofia has been removed but not pulverised. Officially, it had to make way for construction of the capital's underground railway and it is stored carefully in a suburban factory.

Not much of a revolution, then. Opinion polls say that the communists — now named the Bulgarian Socialist party — will notch up about 30 per cent of the votes, losing their absolute majority but remaining by far the strongest party. They have profited from the splintering of the opposition, the Union of Democratic Forces, which ran the communist party so close in polls last year.

Now the union will be lucky to attract 23 per cent of the vote. A breakaway opposition group of social democrats, the Centre Party, could take 10 per cent. The new government will have to lean heavily on the United Agrarian Party, which should bring in about 12 per cent, and the party of the Turkish minority, the Movement for Rights and Freedom.

All the key players say they will not join forces with the socialists. Even Alexander Lilov, the Socialist party chief, nicknamed "Soap" for his slipperiness, says he is ready for a period of constructive opposition.

"You are witnessing the last days of communist party hegemony," says Philip Dimitrov, chairman of the United Democratic Forces in his cramped Sofia headquarters. He is absolutely sure of victory, but the future government, it seems certain, will be an unstable shifting coalition.

Leader of Omon forces arrested

Moscow — The former deputy head of the Soviet interior ministry riot police based in Riga has been arrested by officials in Siberia, acting on a request from the Latvian authorities, the Russian RIA news agency said yesterday.

It said officials at Surgut in western Siberia had arrested Commander Aleksandr Parfenov. The ministry police, known as the Black Berets, were sent to Surgut after the failure of the attempted putsch against President Gorbachev in August.

Commander Parfenov is accused of having tried to "overthrow the constitutional authorities in Latvia" in January when Black Beret forces attacked the Latvian interior ministry in Riga, killing five people. Latvia has been independent from the Soviet Union for six weeks. (AFP)

Moscow snub

Bishkek — Askar Akayev, the only candidate in Kirghizia's first presidential elections, due today, says he will steer his Central Asian republic away from Moscow and his conservative neighbours. Mr Akayev said he would not sign an economic treaty with other Soviet republics. (Reuters)

Phone power

Geneva — Vyacheslav Gurkin, Soviet deputy minister for telecommunications, said that the Kremlin coup might have succeeded if telephone lines had been cut. "One of the main reasons the coup d'état failed was that its organisers did not pay enough attention to telecommunications," he said. (Reuters)

Spy chief goes

Oslo — Svein Urdal, Norway's chief of intelligence, has resigned after he was criticised for allowing Israeli Mossad agents to question Palestinian asylum seekers. The Palestinians were not told that they were being examined by both Israeli and Norwegian intelligence. (Reuters)

Holy jaw stolen

Padua — Three masked men have stolen one of the Roman Catholic church's most precious relics, the jaw of St Anthony of Padua set in a cup of gold and precious stones. They held pilgrims in the Basilica of St Anthony at gunpoint and then ran off with the relic in a bag. (Reuters)

Yeltsin says Russia will sign new treaty

From CHARLES BREMNER in MOSCOW

THE prospects of preserving an economic community among former Soviet republics heightened yesterday after Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, gave his approval to a new treaty and other leaders signalled their intention to sign, possibly within days.

Nine republican leaders met President Gorbachev in the new state council and gave their qualified assent after the Soviet president and Grigori Yavlinsky, the architect of the draft treaty, warned them of the consequences if they did not. The treaty was completed ten days ago.

Georgia and Moldavia, which are asserting their declarations of independence, boycotted the Moscow meeting. Azerbaijan's leader, withheld his consent for the treaty, the Interfax news agency said. The ten leaders also gave their blessing to Mr Gorbachev's

nuclear arms proposals, which will eliminate thousands of weapons from their territories.

Mr Gorbachev told the leaders that the council, created after the failed coup in August, had not yet fulfilled the trust placed in it and "the patience of people is wearing thin". The world financial community, which is waiting for a sign of economic stability, was watching closely.

Mr Yavlinsky said none of the republics had the resources to go it alone, as several have indicated they might. "The monetary system will disintegrate, production will dwindle and unemployment will begin."

Mr Yeltsin said Russia was ready to sign by October 15, the original deadline, but he objected strongly to terms creating a supranational bank. He called for negotiations to create a system of co-ordination among republican banks, but not a central bank.

Oldest profession flirts with market

From OUR EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

THE Casanova club is no more. For a few months it seemed as if the late-night venue in Warsaw was on course to become the first legal brothel in Eastern Europe, but after angry complaints from the Catholic Church, Casanova was forced to retire.

The market revolution in Eastern Europe has brought prostitution into the open, triggered debate about the legalisation of brothels, and established the foundations of a thriving sex industry.

There are now sex shops even in small towns in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland and newspaper kiosks groan under the weight of soft-pornography magazines, especially the products of Paul Raymond, the Soho entrepreneur. The communists tolerated prostitution — it did not fit easily into any ideological category — but the censors were usually reluctant to authorise pictures of naked women. Now even serious magazines have a difficult task keeping afloat without at least one pneumatic blonde or a

lightly camouflaged sex story. The advance of capitalism has changed the structure of prostitution.

Of the 100,000 prostitutes in Poland, at least a third are said to be registered as unemployed — early school-leavers with no prospects, redundant textile workers — while many others have to moonlight from underpaid jobs in the state sector, such as nursing. Vietnamese women, stranded by the collapse of communism, are being set up as Thai masseuses. Ukrainian women cross the border and compete with Polish prostitutes at the lower end of the market. In Warsaw, the Russian prostitutes have been driven out of the city centre and mainly ply their trade at a sports stadium. Perhaps the happiest with market reform are the high-class call-girls who, for the first time, report that their books are full of rich Polish customers rather than foreigners.

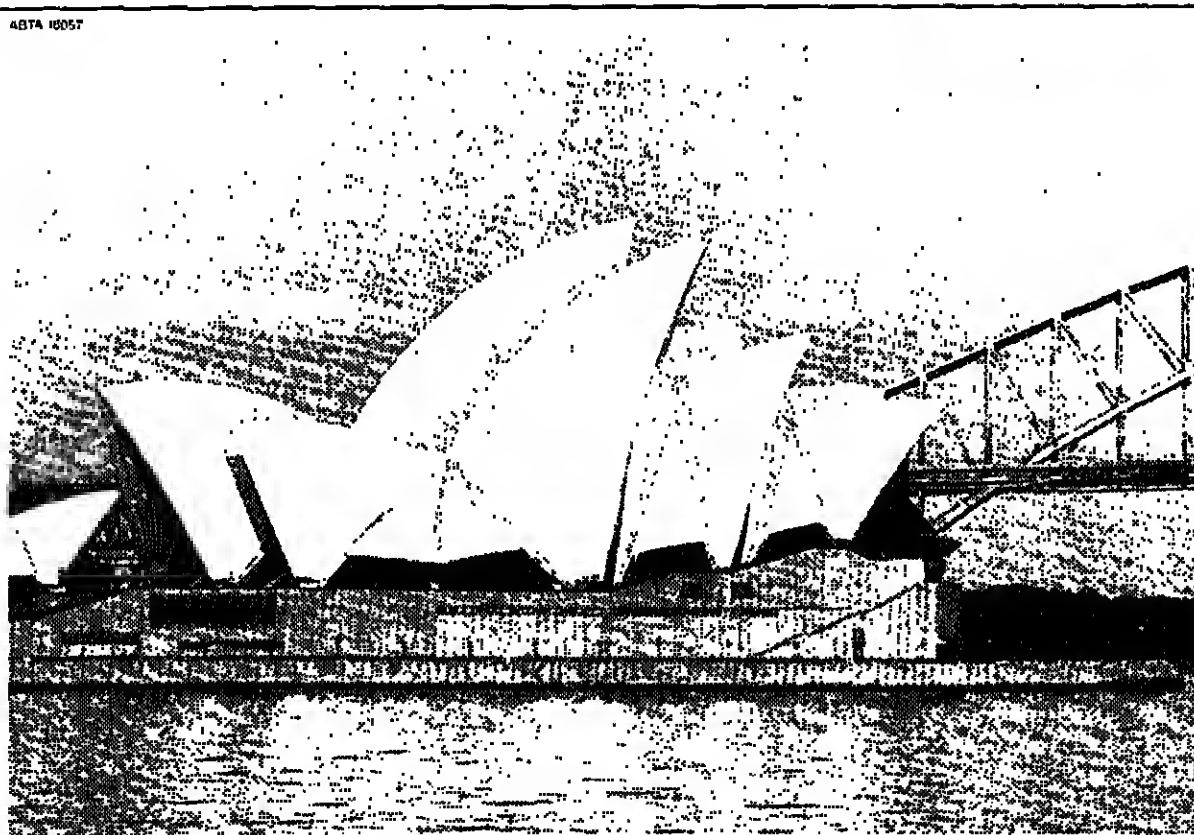
Yet the liberalisation of the sex industry stops short of establishing legal brothels.

Take Laszlo Voros, Hungary's sex millionaire. He has an annual turnover approaching £2 million from several sex clubs, a network of pornographic films and magazines and sex holidays for Austrians and Germans. But he was charged with the illegal possession of ammunition, currency smuggling and procuring women for immoral purposes.

The legal loopholes are inherited from communist legislation. Thus prostitutes are free to work and the only women registered with the police are those who have committed other crimes. Profiting from prostitution is illegal but that forces the prosecutor to prove that

money has changed hands for sexual services. The closure of the Casanova was only possible because three girls had been persuaded to testify against the management. Since the market revolution led to thousands more prostitutes, and since AIDS makes prostitution a particularly dangerous health hazard, there is a broad front in favour of legalising brothels.

There is legal paralysis on sexual offences. Hungary, reluctant to pass repressive legislation, ended up with a hotchpotch draft that merely bans the sale of pornography near schools and insists that explicit magazines are sealed. But Czechoslovakia is now the closest to legalising brothels.



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TELEVISION REVIEW

I do like to be beside the C side

Peter Barnard finds that the visions from Blackpool and the Galapagos Islands are swimming before his eyes

All is confusion. All is blue. A vision in blue with blonde hair and a large smile swims towards us, screen right. She is surrounded by seagulls, who rise all around her, flapping fins and nodding heads, as if to greet a long lost friend come to enfold a threatened species and take them to a place of safety. This is Sea Trek (BBC 1), I think. This is Martha Holmes, a latter-day Michaela Denis, I think. This is the Galapagos Islands, that strange, legendary outcrop off the coast of Ecuador. I think.

All is blue, all is confusion. A vision in blue with blonde hair floats towards us, screen right. She is accompanied by the head C lion, who is wearing a fixed smile in front of clenched teeth. All around, lesser C lions rise, flapping their fins and nodding their heads, as if to greet a long lost friend come to enfold a threatened species and take them to a place of safety. This is the Conservative Party Conference (BBC 2), I think. This is Margaret Thatcher, a latter-day, er, Margaret Thatcher, I think. This is Blackpool, that strange, legendary outcrop on the north-west coast of England. I think.

Martha and her Armand, a breezy American called Mike deGuy, take us on a tour of clear blue waters, seen and heard by means of astonishing technology which transmits both their words and their all-weather smiles. They tell us that in the world of seagulls, the males guard the female

"harem" by barking at all comers. This inverts the remembered experience of the C lions: the days when they could keep their heads down while the one-woman harem did all their barking.

Martha and Mike help us to recognise the older male seagulls, the keepers of the faith, by virtue of their large, weathered foreheads. Nicholas Ridley appears on the screen, interviewed in front of a clear blue backdrop about the perils of shores even wilder than Blackpool's: the

but engulfed by the sound of applause coming from behind them, a consequence of the obsessive BBC desire to make you feel you are part of it. There were moments this week when I thought I had joined the party, and not just the one underwater.

The competition to broadcast from a point closest to the action was very nearly Olympian. Possibly a medal was at stake. If there was, give it to Anthony Howard of *Newsnight*. In the coverage I saw, he was the only one to broadcast from the platform, the very seat (all right, the very end seat) of power. So struck was I by this achievement that I am damned if I can remember what he was talking about.

Was it not the Galapagos Islands that inspired Charles Darwin? It was. He should have gone to Blackpool, to research *Origin of the Tories*, a definitive work which, after Thursday, would have had to put aside evolution in favour of Big Blond Bang theory. Michael Heseltine was back, barking and bawling, swooping and soaring, the only sign that he had been absent these five years being that he oow less trouble with his hair but more with his spectacles.

A standing ovation? You said it. A traitor? Forget it. This sounded a lot like a man who could win you an election. And it left neutrals to admire John Major, not just for bawling to turn up at all yesterday, but also for the way he somehow unclenched his teeth sufficiently to allow the words out. Under sea and

'It left neutrals to admire John Major for the way he unclenched his teeth sufficiently to allow the words out'

shore beyond which lurks the species European.

Martha and Mike lean against an undersea cavern entrance and debate the merits of tangling with the circling hammerhead shark. Norman Tebbit appears on the screen, to be engaged by the fearless Donald McCormick, who will tangle with anything that looks as if it might have an opinion. The two voices are all



Cameraman Peter Scowson in the deep blue with the flappers who protect their females from newcomers by barking

beside it, you never know where the next tidal wave is coming from.

So the ratings blockbuster business, it isn't coming from America. Or if it is, it is not called *Cop Rock* — a thoroughly daff new series which even in the straining cop show genre is a gimmick too far. For years television cops came in pairs: white men, black men, one of each, two women, married couples. Now they have arrived as a chorus with soloists and full orchestra, a format within which at any moment the prosecuting counsel or the judge or the defendant or indeed all three and their 12 best friends will burst into song. Comic? Opera? Neither and both, but not by any standard definition.

Critics, what can you do? You give them new and original material, and they complain. Don't look at me. Half an hour after *Cop Rock* on BBC1, *The Late Show* wheeled on the horse and opened its mouth. None other than Steven Bochco, the inventive creator of *St Elsewhere* and *Hill Street Blues*. He is also behind *Cop Rock*, which is revealed to have been a spectacular flop in the United States. Bochco knew why. People did not want singing cops in their living rooms, he said. Frankly, he said, it was embarrassing. Frankly, he was right.

Long ago when *Late Night Line-Up* was running, it had an independent streak which attracted buy-your-own-bloody-drink body language when its presenters walked

into the BBC club bar. An honourable tradition, and who but the BBC would be big enough to revive it? *The Late Show* team must have been buying their own on Monday night, and good on them. Mind you, they probably had some friends left. *Cop Rock* will have crossed the Atlantic in a plain brown wrapper addressed to "purchased programmes", a department suspected, elsewhere in the BBC, of spending too much time and money in vile places such as Los Angeles.

BBC Sport (logo: a globe) has been looking a touch shrunken of late, glued as it is to the other man's screen. Thus far (and it goes on, and on) ITV has done a good job of covering The Rugby World Cup, competent in the commentary box and better than

that in other areas, such as the use of graphics.

Naturally most people will remember the tournament for Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's reworking of the theme song (number 11 in the charts) which has the merit of demonstrating that you do not have to be a large Italian to cross from one culture to another. You can also be a sveite New Zealander.

Dame Kiri turned up on Wogan this week, where our Tel went straight to the heart of the matter by discussing what she looked like. Definitely more attractive than Tina Turner, was his view. Tel, you old culture vulture. She should have hit him: instead, she hugged him. At which point I switched off. You can get enough of blondes.

Bits and pieces

DANCE

Cold Dark Matter
Chisenhale Gallery

IN THE centre of the big white hall hangs an enormous number of disparate objects: household and garden impediments, bits of bicycles, a gumball and much more.

Three women come in. They make vague gestures towards the shower of objects as they move around it. After a time, they show a touch of violence. Eventually they roll along the ground under the installation, disturbing its trailing ends, and sit up to the middle. The music, meanwhile, goes from attractive sonorities to harsh clanking, scraping and falling sounds, then to a jazzy sequence. The composers are Gavin Bryars, Joo Lever and Henry Threadgill.

This is *Cold Dark Matter: An Exploded View*, billed as a collaboration between the dancer, Gaby Agis, and the sculptor, Cornelia Parker. I can see that Parker has given a context to Agis's work. But what does she get in return? Only after the performance can we get near her installation and grasp what it is about. Now the apparently haphazard collection takes on more cogency, especially if you know (the programme does not tell us) that its starting point was the act of blowing up a shed, photographing the event and trying to reproduce the effect.

Close to, many fascinating details become apparent. But while the dancers were there, with their arcane and sometimes listless activities, we were cut off from the object of their interest. On the other hand, would we otherwise have travelled to Bethnal Green and spent an hour looking at it?

JOHN PERCIVAL

Hare brained confusion

AT A TIME when the mental horizons of most dramatists seem to be shrinking, give David Hare credit for thinking big and broad. He has appointed himself the all-purpose ombudsman of the British theatre. Already, he has delivered *ex cathedra* judgments on the press and the church in *Pravda* and *Racing Demon*, and soon he will switch his attention to parliament. After that, who knows? It may be the turn of agriculture, the military, dons, dentists, undertakers, or the Astronomer Royal. No part of our slippery establishment can expect to elude the Hare brain.

Meanwhile, it is law and order that concerns him; and with reason. Everybody is troubled by a system that has penned innocent Irishmen in horribly overcrowded prisons on the say-so of over-enthusiastic policemen and a credulous judiciary. But what does Hare add to the debate? A story that lets his characters introduce disturbing facts, make critical comments and embody his own likes and dislikes; yet one that remains oddly unsatisfactory in itself.

His exemplary victim is Robert Patterson's McKinnon, an Irish labourer with money worries. When two criminals ask him to drive the van in a minor heist, he reluctantly agrees, and is sent down for five years. But here things get puzzling, and out only to Alphonsa Emmann's Irina, the earnest barrister defending him. The detective on the case, Keith Allen's fly Barry, has blackmailed the Irishman's chums into becoming informers; and this seems to be the tip of the iceberg.

But what is happening

Murmuring Judges
by Olivier



Richard Pascoe representing the villainous side of the law

under the surface, and how is its exposure likely to free McKinnon? When critics are found in a tiny cluster after curtain-down, debating the plot's essentials, something needs clarifying.

That spoiled my enjoyment of Richard Eyre's bold production (sponsored by Amer-

ada Hess), which uses a minimum of furniture and a maximum of evocative back-projections. In prison McKinnon is humiliated, stripped, then shoved into the cells with convicts who treat him even more roughly than Joseph O'Connor's chief screw, who offers him tea and well-meant advice. All this is evidence of Hare's fairness. No sadists here; only limited people doing the impossible job their betters demand.

It is those betters who get up the Hare nose. He himself commits the antique crime of "murmuring", or scandalously criticising not only the judiciary, but what he regards as the pompous conspiracy of the Inns of Court. Michael Bryant, playing a judge, is smug enough, but the real villain is Richard Pascoe's celebrity silk, for whom bettering his rivals matters more than any pathetic client. In a surprisingly cheap scene, he squires Irina to *The Magic Flute* while McKinnon cowers in his cell. In another, with equally plain didactic intentions, she lambasts him for his lack of conscience and compassion, a redundant task if ever there was one. She is, pretty evidently, Hare in drag.

Hare can be awkward and unstable when he argues his thesis: that British justice is a cruel, foolish, destructive mess. But against that must be counted his energy, his passion and the questions he intrudes. If the police were more efficient, and more than two per cent of crimes ended in convictions, what would our prisons be like? Now there is a paradox worth pondering.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Flat song with sharp lines

THE newly-formed Kali Theatre Company disclaims any documentary purpose in its first production, but this slice of life in a women's refuge often sounds like a series of arguments about tradition and progress, carefully articulated in a dramatised sociological study. In fact, the cautious, sometimes hostile, encounters between Rajinder, fleeing from a brutal husband, and Kamla, a worker at the refuge, provide the most interesting aspects of the play.

Rajinder is a conventional middle-class Indian: religious, conservative, highly proper. Kamla, with her trousers and hunch haircut, is the Angli-hutch haircut, who responds "London" when asked where she comes from, and who dismays the other woman with her ignorance of any languages but English.

Mutual suspicion soon becomes hostility, each as prejudiced as the other. The bawling incomprehension is well charted by the author and

Song for a Sanctuary
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

co-founder of the company, Rukhsana Ahmad.

The relationship gives the company's other founder a fascinating role. Rita Wolf, well known in film and television besides the theatre, is in splendidly complex form as Kamla: full of right-on attitudes and jargon but prey to preconceptions she contemptuously dismisses. Rajinder is a natural collaborator with oppression, and angrily represents the other woman's cultural assumptions. Kamla has come to Asian culture as an outsider, as revealed in a telling scene where she tries on the older woman's shawl and attempts traditional song and dance — learnt in evening class. Her outburst against

"saris, bloody lingo, and all your certainties about the universe" speaks volumes, not just of exasperation but of wisdom, perhaps regret at having abandoned the positive as well as the negative elements of her culture.

The production, jointly by Rita Wolf and Sue Parrish, co-director of the Women's Theatre Group, assumes an episodic pace that could do with variation as pieces of furniture are rearranged after each short take (the play would go well on television). The dialogues between Kamla and Rajinder and Kamla and her more flexible colleague at the refuge are increasingly at odds with the conventional demands of the plot: Rajinder's daughter revealing parental abuse, the father's pursuit of his family, and the final tragedy which, intercut with the refuge worker's earnest sociological discussions, looks jarringly melodramatic.

MARTIN HOYLE

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Clifford Longley

Anglican parishioners must pay up or shut up

The Church Commissioners for England used to enjoy a quiet life. Every year they published their handsome accounts. Every year their executives fielded gentle questions at synods and press conferences. They were plainly a good thing, doing a grand job. Leave well alone, the Church of England said to itself. And if churchmen ever asked if the church could manage without "the Commissioners' millions" — now actually £2.5 billion — they had only to see the books before shuddering and turning away.

For two immediate and one more remote reason, those happy days are over. The first is that the Bishop of Oxford has broken ranks by taking the Commissioners to court over the ethics of their investment policy. Judgment is awaited. The second is that despite an investment policy favouring maximisation of returns regardless of the finer points of ethics, the Commissioners are severely strapped for cash. Grants towards clergy pay have been not just frozen but cut by £4 million, and the diocese of Chelmsford is talking of axing 20 vicars.

The third reason, still some way off, is the prospect of the end of the Church of England's special legal status as the nation's established religion. What happens to the Commissioners' billions in that event is far from clear, though crucial, and what the church really fears is not disestablishment but disendowment.

Without the Commissioners' annual investment income of £165 million, or equivalent funding, the Church of England would shrivel to an ecclesiastical husk. Weekly collections from congregations average a derisory £2 a head, much less than half what is needed for the church to be self-supporting. So the church is highly vulnerable to disestablishment and disendowment, which is why the Commissioners think it so important to maximise investment returns.

Throughout the 1980s, the Commissioners' income rose faster than inflation, and that income has consistently protected the church from market forces of a more mundane kind. That protection is now weakening. For £2 per head per week does not buy much religion. It certainly does not buy a national church with 10,000 full-time paid clergy, almost all with families. Nor does it signify much commitment from ordinary members.

Chelmsford diocese is about to put this commitment to the test. It used to be said that Anglicans were only ungenerous because they believed the church was rich. If church members now find parishes closing or denuded of clergy, will they see the light and make good the shortfall? Church leaders do not think so, in which case there is no hope of raising more from the pews to compensate the Commissioners for the penalties of rejecting high-yielding investments on ethical grounds.

The Commissioners say that as public trustees they have a legal duty always to seek the best dividends they can. The Bishop of Oxford says they should be free to decline higher dividends from sources of which the church does not approve, even if this cuts their total income. Theologically, he has a good argument, but that may be little help in interpreting the law.

The case will clear up one significant uncertainty. Do the Church Commissioners belong to the church, or are they part of the state? If they belong to the church, they should be bound by whatever ethical distinctions the church likes to make between good and bad sources of income. If the state, then the only distinctions they need to observe are those insisted on by Parliament.

One day — and few churchmen now deny it — church and state will be pulled apart. If the Commissioners are part of the Church of England, they and their billions will go with the church; but if their assets belong to the state and they are just one more public corporation, their largesse is a "government subsidy" for one particular religion which could not possibly be justified after disestablishment.

In the long run, it would have been cheaper and safer for the Commissioners to have conceded the Bishop of Oxford his point, and then waited to see if anybody sued from the other direction. The more the Commissioners look as if they are within the precincts of the Church of England, rather than an independent state body governed only by secular law, the safer their millions will be from confiscation by disendowment.



...and moreover
PHILIP HOWARD

Henry Fielding, inventor of the modern novel, had the kind of self-assurance with all sorts and conditions of men that is traditionally supposed to sit upon an Etonian. He once fell into company with the Earl of Denbigh, whose family name was Feilding, spelled that way, as English spelling does with proper names, to wrong-foot outsiders. It turned out that they belonged to the same family. The earl asked why they spelled their names differently. Fielding replied that he had no idea, "except maybe that my branch of the family was the first to know how to spell".

Such variant spellings do not make much difference with proper names, apart from snobbery and one-upmanship. It does not really matter if you pronounce the surname Featherstonehaugh the way it looks, rather than the way the family prefers to be pronounced. Fatslaw. In the government, the Secretary of State for Health has one of these trick names that are not pronounced the way they look. It is a habituation name for the place in Northamptonshire that was recorded in Domesday Book as Waldegrave. It means the grove (Old English "graf") belonging to Old. Old is a nearby place, so called from the Old English "weald", the forest. Hence "Waldegrave", old forest's grove. So far, so straightforward. The family traces its descent from Richard Waldegrave of Smallbridge in Suffolk, who was speaker of the House of Com-

mons in the 14th century, when being speaker was a dodgy job than it is today. You could lose your head, as well as your temper. Over the centuries, the pronunciation of the name has shifted away from its spelling. It is now naff and ill-informed to pronounce it as a trisyllable. It should be pronounced as only two syllables, with the faintest hint of the vanishing dental d between them. Fielding (or Feilding) would no doubt have something to say about this.

Idiosyncrasy is a merit in proper names. It helps to distinguish Smythe from Smith and De'Ath from Death. But beyond the special case of names, little differences in spelling and pronunciation can make a big difference to the sense. The mishearing of homophones or homonyms or near-homophones can create merry havoc in a piece of copy dictated by telephone. Sight always comes out at the other end as site, whenever I am dictating, and I am still giggling ruefully at the epithet that emerged as hair-brained, conjuring up a surrealist image worthy of Scarsie.

More English is being generated than ever before since the Tower of Babel. I sometimes think that there must be more disc-jockeys and chat-show hosts blathering on the gross superfluity of radio and television stations than there are people listening to them. Quite a lot of their spelling is now checked by machine, or by people who

don't spell well themselves. This is good for an open society, but not for a dodgy job. In the New Delhi telephone directory an advertisement makes the alarming claim: "We are the world's largest manufacturer of flattened wrenches." So much difference can that little r, which some of us find hard to pronounce, make to your sense. I once fell in with a Dutch secretary whose English was fluent (as it tends to be among the Dutch) but far from idiomatic. Luckily we read through her letter taken from dictation, which stated that the organisation comprised "about 1,500 erected members".

A friend on a mountain holiday was using his word-processor for a letter expatiating on the beauties of the mountain flowers. His spell-checker stopped at the phrase "a meadow blue with gentians", a word that it had not read as "chicks", which could cause trouble if you were in the poultry business. A queen regnant is different in one respect at least from a queen pregnant. In the tycoon of language, little characters can make a lot of difference, if you want to avoid making a gaffe, and being boist by a gaff.

With the Cold War over, Nigel West calls for a museum of espionage and suggests some exhibits

Britain's secret history



Enigma: still under wraps

In a corner of the ground floor of the CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia, is an area devoted to the CIA's historical collection. By the side of the KGB's notorious building dominating Lubyanka Square in Moscow a first-floor museum extends across the whole of the officers' mess. Paradoxically, one complements the other: the current exhibition at Langley includes a selection of Soviet uniforms, with a special emphasis on what were until recently the KGB border guards. The KGB's glass-pannelled cabinets contain espionage paraphernalia such as silenced weapons and miniature wireless sets, mostly of American origin. Both establishments may be visited by invited guests.

Neither the British Security Service nor the Special Intelligence Service (SIS) appears to place the same value on items of historical importance, and neither allows outsiders access to its premises. The SIS has no means to display pieces from its archive, and MI5 has only a scruffy display cabinet in its Mayfair training section. Britain's attitude to the achievements of the intelligence community is characterised by ignorance and neglect. Many of the famous butts in the grounds of Bletchley Park, where some of the great wartime crypto-

graphic triumphs took place, have been demolished with scant regard for the crucial role the site played. Similarly, the "black radio" station at Woburn has been allowed to fall into disrepair and the "Bombe" annexes at Grayhurst in Northamptonshire and Eastcote in Middlesex, where the daily settings of the Enigma cipher machine were deduced, are threatened with destruction. Even the famous duplicate cabinet war room, deep underground at Dollis Hill, which Churchill repaired to at the height of the Blitz, lies derelict under several inches of floodwater.

Sadly, despite the wealth of material available for show, there is little suitable accommodation in this country, and no effort has been made to emulate the Soviet and American examples. The Intelligence Corps Museum at the Temple Bar, outside Ashford in Kent is bursting at the seams with valuable artefacts, many of them dating back to the first world war, but the building is located just inside the military compound so access is necessarily restricted. Similarly the

Royal Signals Museum near Trowbridge in Wiltshire, which has a fine collection of equipment, is obliged to restrict visits by the public. The famous Black Museum at New Scotland Yard contains some fascinating curiosities from the world of espionage, including some ingenious Soviet spy equipment, but unfortunately there is hardly room for both visitors and exhibits.

Unlike the National Security Agency near Baltimore, which is also developing a collection of vintage computers and reconstructed Japanese cipher machines, its British counterpart at Cheltenham is so secretive that it will not share material dating from 1941 with the NSA's historians. The absurdity of the secrecy maintained by GCHQ was eloquently demonstrated when a loan was

made of an old Wehrmacht Enigma machine to the Science Museum in South Kensington. Strict conditions were imposed on the way the machine could be displayed, and the staff are still not allowed to open the lid to reveal the mechanism to the public, even though there are several authentic Enigma machines in private hands in America, and probably at least one in this country. Most were looted at the end of the war and have been sold in recent years following the disclosure of the "Ultra" secret.

The haphazard way in which the British authorities deal with such items is demonstrated by the appearance in the Imperial War Museum of a German suitcase wireless transmitter. When it was first put on display there was no indication of its origin, the use to which it had

been put, or the circumstances of its capture. It had been recovered from a German double-agent based in Iceland, one of a pair run by SIS with the codenames "Cobweb" and "Spider". The case officer responsible for supervising both spies was Harold Blyth, a counter-intelligence expert whose wartime career extended into the peace. His widow found the radio stored under his bed after his death. She contacted her late husband's superiors at SIS headquarters. When it found its way to the Imperial War Museum, the documentation said it had been contributed by Guy Bratt, himself a senior SIS officer. Under the terms of the Official Secrets Act he was prohibited from disclosing any information regarding its origins.

The Special Forces Club in Knightsbridge, the members of which are mostly survivors from the Special Operations Executive (SOE), is often approached by those who have stumbled across wartime memorabilia. Each item is considered by the club's historical committee, a panel of experts including a representative of the

Imperial War Museum, which apparently plans to devote space in future to material connected with the SOE. Whether this is to be a permanent display has yet to be decided, but some anxiety was expressed at the club's annual general meeting in April. The best destination for such material would be a permanent site, preferably in central London, where all the items of intelligence significance could be gathered together. When, some years ago, a farmer in Wales showed his local Special Branch a KGB transmitter he had accidentally unearthed in a field, it was then seized by MI5, never to be seen again. A similar fate has befallen dozens of other pieces from a lost era, such as Gordon Lonsdale's Canadian passport and the miniature camera concealed in a wallet used by the RAF traitor Douglas Britten.

With the Cold War over and the need for such ridiculous secrecy diminished, it is time that such artefacts were catalogued and offered for public viewing. And, as a correspondent suggested on the page opposite last Tuesday, nowhere could be more appropriate than SOE's old headquarters in Baker Street.

The author, Rupert Allason, is Conservative MP for Torbay.

The lure of the Snark

Julia Briggs hunts down a strange beast now on the loose in London

For over a century Lewis Carroll's comic and melancholic ballad *The Hunting of the Snark* has entranced children and adults alike. Now it is about to hit the stage as a musical. Like T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, Carroll's poem combines inspired nonsense, an eccentric cast of characters, tripping rhythms ("They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care") and high spirits with darker undertones. Its theme is a doomed quest and its mood one of metaphysical dread.

"For the Snark was a Boojum, you see." This, the poem's last line, was also its starting point. It came to Carroll quite suddenly as he was walking across a hillside near Guildford on a June day in 1874: "I knew not what it meant, then: I know not what it means, now."

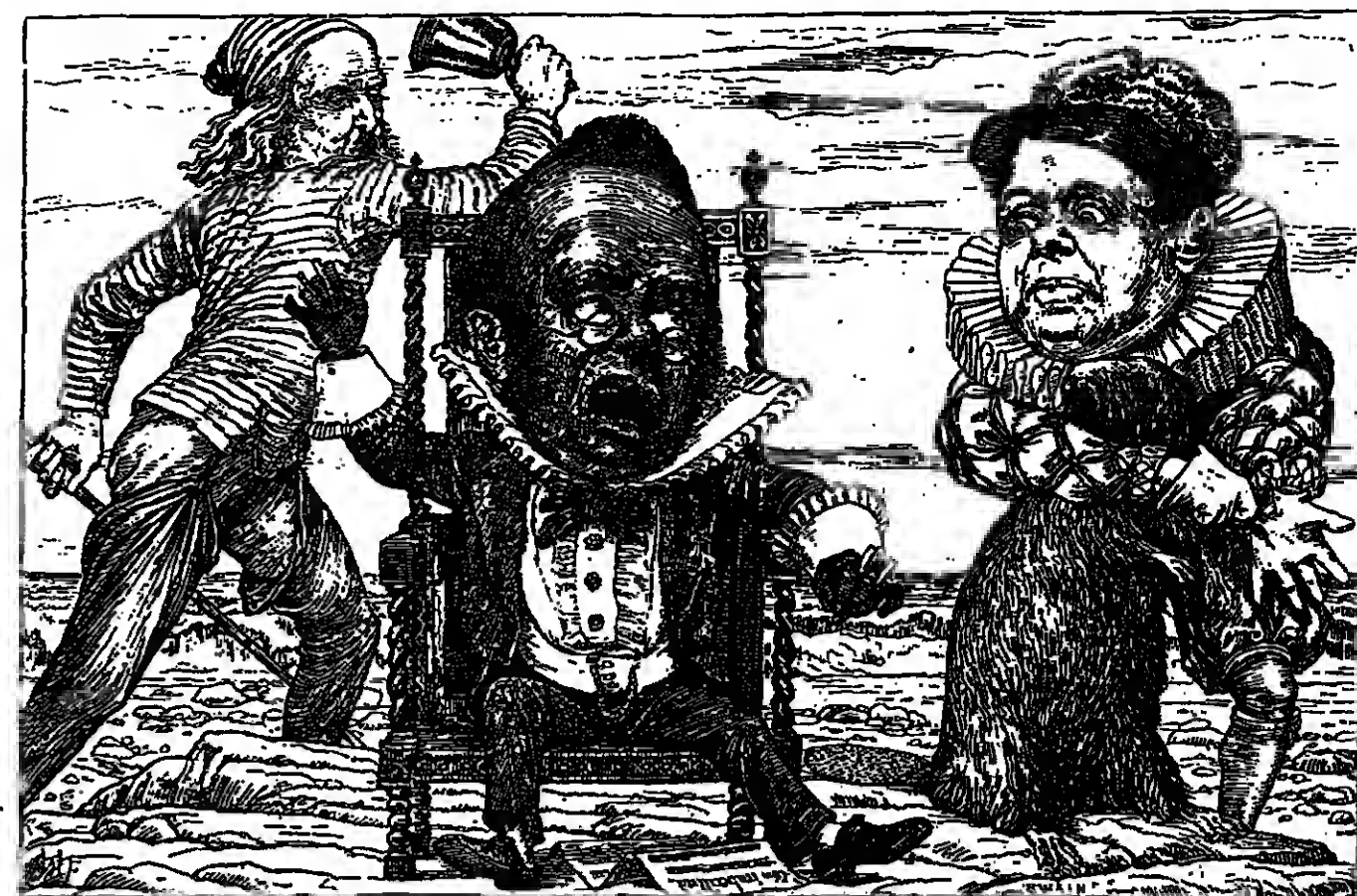
The *Snark* is a poem of male courage and camaraderie, the tale of a band of brothers, The Bellman and his crew (who are mainly named for their occupations and all begin with "B") undergo a series of trials. Yet like the *Alice* books, the poem is dedicated to a little girl of golden memory, a child whose name — Gertrude Chataway — is woven into an acrostic poem of dedication.

Carroll met the eight-year-old Gertrude on the beach at Sandown, on the Isle of Wight,

during the summer of 1875 and they at once struck up a friendship. He was amused at her unconventional dress ("A bare-legged girl in a sailor's jersey") while she was amused at the way he snuffed the sea air in deeply, and told her wonderful stories.

At this stage the poem was well advanced and Carroll was waiting for the artist, Henry Holiday, to complete his set of illustrations for it. Carroll had met Holiday early in the previous year and as they became friends, Holiday drew some nude studies of children which Carroll, a passionate amateur photographer, intended to "try to reproduce in photographs". In the following summer of 1876, a few months after *The Snark's* publication, Carroll had discovered that the Chataways were not returning to Sandown that year, so he wrote to Mrs Chataway inviting her to bring Gertrude to be photographed in Oxford (where under his real name, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, he taught mathematics at Christ Church).

A postscript enquires "What is the minimum amount of dress in which you are willing to have her taken? I should see no objection... to photographing her in Eve's original dress." A follow-up letter, written in October, explains that he has photographed Lily Gray with nothing on, adding "Are you going to



The Bellman, the Banker, the Butcher and the Beaver, from *The Hunting of the Snark*, drawn by Henry Holiday, 1876

allow Gertrude... to be done in the same way?" But apparently Mrs Chataway had reservations, since in the portraits Gertrude wore bathing-drawers or a night-dress. The visit to Oxford was followed by a coy letter to Gertrude herself in which Carroll tells her that his doctor has diagnosed her as suffering from too much kissing and has warned him, "You may not give her any more until your lips are quite rested again."

While such behaviour arouses unease today, for Gertrude Chataway, as for many other little girls whom he "picked up" (in his own phrase), Carroll figures not as a heavy-breathing monster but as a favourite uncle whose friendship gave untroubled pleasure and delight:

They remembered him with artless affection and admiration. To Carroll, the pleasure of their company probably seemed more delicate, ethereal and pure than any relationship with a mature woman could be.

The hero of the *Snark* is the Baker who (like Alice in the wood) has forgotten his own name ("He would answer to 'Hil' or to any loud cry, / Such as 'Fry me!' or 'Fritter my wig!'"). He has also forgotten his 42 boxes, all neatly labelled for the voyage, and he proceeds to forget to warn his comrades in a language they could understand of the grave personal risk he runs in pursuing the Snark. for, if it is a Boojum, he "will swiftly and silently vanish away,

And never be met with again." This fate of sudden and utter annihilation was a Carroll theme. The normally courageous Alice is reduced to tears when Tweedledum and Tweedledee warn her that she is only a part of the Red King's dream: if he wakes, "you'd go out — bang! — just like a candle!" The Baker ("His intimate friends call him 'Candle-ends'") is an equally dauntless figure, yet he is transformed from the hunter to the hunted. Eventually, the Bellman and his gallant crew lose the Baker to a Bandersnatch and the Baker to the Snark who is really a Boojum, and their quest peters out in silence and loss.

And so too for Carroll the golden summer afternoon of innocence could not last; as the

1870s drew to a close, he put away his camera for ever, and left detailed instructions in his will as to how his nude photographs were to be erased. Alice Liddell, who had inspired the books named after her, was married, and there were to be no more pure nonsense books.

Carroll's last book, *Sylvie and Bruno*, blends wonderland comedy with a nostalgic and sentimental evocation of adult emotions, though even these are suffused with longing for the fairy child-bride Sylvie, lost for ever in the wood of dreams. Perhaps Carroll's own Snark had finally turned out to be a Boojum.

The author is a fellow of Hertford College, Oxford. The musical opens at the Prince Edward Theatre on October 24.

Bomber's beastly war

ONE interested party has been notably silent in the debate about the merits of the decision to erect a statue to honour Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris: the sculptor. Faith Winter, the creator of the £100,000 nine-foot bronze statue, which will be unveiled next March alongside one of Lord Dowding, wartime commander of Fighter Command, has deliberately kept her counsel.

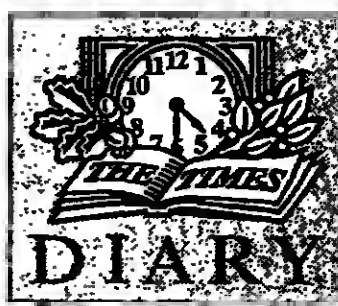
But Winter has an intimate knowledge of the arguments: she also sculpted the statue of Lord Dowding. "I have decided to speak out. I do not believe the Harris statue should be considered in isolation."

Winter formed a special relationship with Harris's son, Sir Anthony Harris, and his daughters Rosemary and Jacqueline during the commission. "His family recalled a wonderful father with a great sense of humour and a sense of fun," she says.

At a viewing of the statue before it went off to be cast in bronze, Sir Anthony commented in public for the first time: "He was a reserved man with an enormous sense of humour, but was terribly worried about the war. On several occasions I remember him telling me: 'It was a beastly business.'"

Winter carried out extensive research, talking to friends, relatives and men who served under his command. "My reading and, even more, hearing at first-hand the experiences and views of those who flew at the time, enabled me to understand their motivation and their desire to win the war as quickly as possible."

In his book *Bomber Offensive*, Sir Arthur wrote of the carpet-bombing which destroyed Dresden and other German cities:



"Here, I will only say that the attack on Dresden was at the time considered a military necessity by much more important people than myself."

Winter, who has been deeply upset by the attacks on Harris, says: "I suggest the commanders and airmen of both Fighter Command and Bomber Command deserve commemoration. The two statues support each other and both should be there."

TORY leaders went out of their way yesterday to emphasise the different speaking styles of John Major and Mrs Thatcher. But when Major rose to make his vital speech, his confidence was bolstered by the presence in the wings of one of Mrs Thatcher's most trusted speech-writers.

In a surprise move, Downing Street called in playwright Sir Ronald Millar to polish up Major's speech. Sir Ronald travelled to Blackpool on Monday to take part in the final work on the speech. Chris Patten insisted all week that Major would be himself and would not need to rely on the image-makers, but with comparisons inevitable between the styles of Major and his predecessor, the call went out last week to Sir Ronald, one of Mrs Thatcher's speech-writers for 16 years.

Sir Ronald also advises on delivery techniques, and is understood to have told Major to speak more quickly, and to try to add a lower, more authoritative timbre to his voice.

Golden day

IT'S not exactly the contribution that arts minister Tim Renton had in mind when he asked the Musicians' Union to a meeting in Whitehall to discuss National Music Day. Far from suggesting a nationwide series of concerts, or a record to mark the event, the union suggested the opposite. It says the best way musicians can achieve the recognition they deserve is if there is a national no-music day.

The union thinks it would make much more of a stir by downing instruments on June 28, the date Renton has pencilled in. Renton, who has been working with Mick Jagger and Harvey Goldsmith among others, thought the union

was joking. Was it? Horace Trubridge, the union's careers adviser, says it was no joke. The idea is that people would really appreciate musicians if music were banned for a day. "It would be a really sound idea to have no sound

for a day. The union of course realises that this is a theoretical idea." The notion was greeted with gales of laughter.

● Guess which minister had to abandon his train at Blackpool, 40 minutes after it was due to leave, and make the 30-minute journey to Preston in a taxi? None other than Francis Maude, who at the conference this week extolled the virtues of the citizen's charter which, among other things, is designed to come to the aid of long-suffering rail commuters.

Happier days

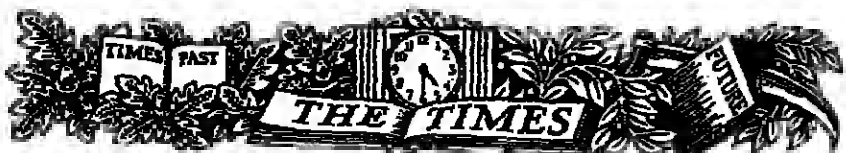
WHEN the Sumo wrestlers took their bow at the Albert Hall earlier this week, they were nearly upstaged by Sir Peter Parker's welcoming speech in fluent Japanese. But the Japanese in the audience might have cheered his bravado performance with rather less enthusiasm had they known where Sir Peter, chairman of the Japan Festival, honed his speaking skills.

"I was in North Burma in 1944, interrogating Japanese prisoners of war," says Sir Peter. "They were rather less attractive circumstances." Sir Peter learnt the language as a 16-year-old student at the School of Oriental and African Studies, but when he became a major in the Intelligence Corps in 1943, his skills were put to effective use. "Now the circumstances are rather more peaceful, I am happy to say. We've grown one generation to another."

● When BBC local radio conducted early morning interviews with Tory MPs at Blackpool's Winter Gardens yesterday, it was not only early-bird delegates who got the benefit of the politicians' views. A mix-up over frequencies meant the interviews were also broadcast over police panda-car radios.

July 20 1950

exhibits



JOHN MAJOR

Last November, the Tory kingmakers offered the nation a pig in a poke to succeed the overthrown Margaret Thatcher. In his first conference speech as leader at Blackpool yesterday, John Major gave a clearer idea of who he is, but not of where he is going. Public speeches may not matter as much in the age of television as the set-piece interview or even the soundbite. But British politics is still the politics of the club — witness the manner of Mr Major's election — not of presidentialism. Set piece speeches, whether at party conferences or in Parliament, are still crucial to club ascendancy.

Yesterday Mr Major established his ascendancy emphatically. If his demeanour and voice remain unassuming, soft-spoken, in a word grey, he can at least crack jokes about it. Like many of his cabinet, he does not take easily to the antecubes and magnifying screens which disjoint delivery and distort eye contact with an audience (they should be discontinued). But in his words, Mr Major showed a remarkably confident mastery of his job and his party.

He used his own past deftly to substantiate an otherwise cliché-haunted advocacy of equal opportunity. Here was an authentic product of the post-war meritocracy, in the mould of Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher. In terms of class background, the Tory cabinet is not appreciably different from Labour's shadow one. Mr Major's Conservative party may be the party of success, even of wealth, but it cannot be called the party of privilege.

The account of the past year's custodianship was sketchy. The prime minister is entitled to take pride in his conduct of the Gulf war, in his handling of Europe, in the apparent conquest of inflation. Equally understandable was that he should have paid little attention to the price the British economy has paid to achieve low inflation, to the depth of the recession and to the lingering sores of Northern Ireland and urban decay. That he should oppose

"progressive" methods of education, castigate property crime, deplore left-wing councillors and support the National Health Service is hardly surprising. But those who search for novelty or specificity in John Major's presentation will look in vain. He paid fulsome tribute to colleagues who have spent the past year consolidating the changes of the 1980s, but he was disappointingly platitudinous in doing so.

Indeed, and this is the continuing doubt about Mr Major, he seemed eerily policy-averse. Those used to the red meat of a Thatcher oration must clearly get used to lighter fare. In his reference to the NHS, his audience applauded his eloquent railing of Labour's mendacity and then awaited his defence of the upheaval that is causing his party such anguish. None came. Mr Major is a consolidator, not a radical. He feels the Thatcher years were those of sufficient change. For the future there is just the neo-liberalism of the Citizen's Charter.

Vision in politics can be a dangerous thing. Mrs Thatcher's vision was specific and often exciting, but it could scare her party out of its wits — and over poll tax out of its senses. The case for a converse approach, especially in advance of an election campaign, is strong. But Mr Major made much of the vacuity of Labour policy under Neil Kinnock. He chided Labour for no longer knowing where it is going.

Yesterday the nation received some banalities — "the power to choose, the freedom to own" — and some reassurance: it has a leader of character and charm. But of that leader's intentions for the welfare state, for European union, for tax reform, for local government, for the constitution and the law, indeed for much of the Thatcher legacy, the nation as yet knows little. A year ago, it was offered a leader for whom it had not voted and on whom it must wait at least another half year to vote. It appears to like the pig, but the pig is still in the poke.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Live on some American channels, leading the news on all networks, an electrifying battle is joined in the US Senate this weekend between two articulate self-made lawyers, both from poor backgrounds and both black. The outcome will decide the fate of President Bush's latest nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States. But it is not only Judge Clarence Thomas who finds himself in the dock of public opinion.

Women across the country have the entire US Senate, only two of whose hundred members are female, in their sights, accusing senators in thousands of letters and telegrams of rank insensitivity to sexual misconduct. The final Senate vote will only tangentially be about the composition of the Supreme Court or even about the "character" of Judge Thomas. The senators are under enormous pressure to demonstrate how seriously they take sexual harassment. The scene is set for an orgy of "politically correct" hypocrisy.

Professor Anita Hill claims that the judge insisted on discussing his sexual prowess and pornographic films with her when she was his employee a decade ago. These allegations, made confidentially, were leaked to a pro-abortion lobby opposed to the conservative judge's appointment. Hence, after a confused pause, the new hearings, an ordeal of cross-examination which would be painful even without the television cameras. The verdict, especially given the lapse of years, cannot be clearcut.

Dr Hill has stopped short of accusing the judge of verbal sexual harassment in the workplace, which is a crime under American law. Her complaint is of conduct unbecoming one in high office. Judge Thomas, devious hearing "to clear my name".

Seen by some as an eleven-hour player in the political game of character-assassination which has increasingly dominated Senate confirmation hearings, Dr Hill is lauded by others as the standard-bearer for thousands of women in their struggle against

what the American media call "power-leering". That is something most women regard, with varying degrees of resentment, as a hazard of their sex. There are few subjects on which most men feel less comfortable. Verbal harassment is both commoner and far harder to define than physical harassment. In the backchat between sexes, there is no infallible line between what men tend to see as "all good fun" and what some — but not all — women find obnoxious or intimidating. When most women try to dress attractively for a male-dominated working world, when is a compliment intrusive? Bottom-pinching is obviously insulting, but what of the pat on the shoulder?

The Americans have blazed this new and elusive trail for mutual respect in the workplace, as they have in many other areas of women's rights. Since verbal harassment became a criminal offence in 1986, legal practice has been that a victim need only demonstrate that an activity would seem like harassment to a "reasonable woman". There is nothing trivial about the allegations against Judge Thomas. Yet, given the timing of Dr Hill's complaint and the fact that she followed him to another agency after the incident, the affair has about it an aura of political contrivance.

The issue has nothing to do with the legal opinions on abortion, civil rights or anything else that Judge Thomas would be likely to hold if confirmed. Those he has kept well hidden. Mindful of the Senate's successful hounding of Judge Bork, he offered no hostages to fortune in the original hearings. Equally, he did little to substantiate President Bush's claim that this little-known man was pre-eminently qualified for the job, resting his case on "character". In nominating him, Mr Bush exploited the hypersensitivity of America's racial politics to reinforce the conservative voice in the Supreme Court. How ironic that America's equally hypersensitive sexual politics should now have put his choice at risk.

IN COMMUNION

The spectacle of prayers and vigils for the hostages in Lebanon, focused on St Bride's in Fleet Street but echoed throughout the land, has been one of the more heartening aspects of a story that is otherwise so full of sorrow. But do these prayers achieve anything more than making those who pray feel better? The question is relevant to people of many religions and of none. By no means all agnostics, or even atheists, would regard it as meaningless for individuals to formulate their innermost hopes and desires in the time-honoured form of prayer.

In a letter to *The Times* earlier this week John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, took issue with Rabbi Dan Cohn-Sherbok. The rabbi had argued in an article that God's omniscience is such that He knows whether or not the hostages will be released; hence "there is no point in praying for the opposite to take place". Not so, the archbishop declared. Since the future does not yet exist, God's omniscience does not entail knowledge of the future. "History is not a film already made and waiting to be shown."

It would be wrong to take these or any other two theologians as representative of the Christian and Jewish attitudes to these matters. At least since St Augustine, Christians have entertained a wide variety of opinions about the implications of God's omniscience for humanity and hence also for prayer. Prayers for the dead have always played a large part in monastic religiosity, whether Catholic or Orthodox, but less so in Protestant thought. Prayers for the living,

though, are common to all Christians and, indeed, most other religions.

There is a comparable spectrum in Judaic thought. At one extreme is the heterodox but still influential figure of Spinoza, whose *Ethics* drew the extreme consequence of absolute determinism from his exalted conception of God, in which there is little place for prayer. At the other is Franz Rosenzweig, who revolutionised Jewish theology by drawing new meaning from traditional prayers and festivals.

For those who do not believe in God, the extent of his prescience is irrelevant to the question of whether prayer has any meaning. To the agnostic, prayers for the hostages may still have an objective value. If public, they are an expression of solidarity and compassion; if private, they may amount to a scrutiny of the individual's own conscience. Prayer is sincerity or it is nothing. As Hamlet's uncle Claudius sighs: "Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

The secularised world has dispensed with so much religious baggage that it can ill afford to lose the rich language of prayer. Even the most banal prayer imposes a mental discipline. It presents the supplicant with an opportunity to identify with others in desperate straits. The extraordinary outpouring of feeling for the imprisoned hostages has been a welcome manifestation of the continuing need for votive expression, even among those who never cross the threshold of church, synagogue or mosque.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

On the right or wrong rail link?

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Mr Malcolm Riffkind's rejection of the British Rail preferred route for the Kent high-speed rail link in favour of the Ove Arup route (report, October 10) is deeply disappointing. Of the three options the BR route would have impacted least on areas of national nature conservation importance, and was therefore favoured by the RSPB.

The Ove Arup route will carve through the Rainham Marshes site of special scientific interest, one of the last places on the fringe of London of national nature conservation interest.

The Rail Europe option would be even worse as it would cross the Medway estuary and north Kent marshes which are of international importance for their wild birds, and are identified for special protection under the EC Directive on Bird Conservation. We now need a clear commitment from the government on two counts — not to move the Ove Arup route eastwards into these sensitive areas, and to minimise the impact on Rainham Marshes.

All this points to the urgent need for a full and impartial process of environmental assessment. This would enable the government to weigh up the competing interests likely to be affected by any new rail link and associated development in the east Thames corridor.

Despite this need the government has proposed to expedite the consent procedures for such development, which will reduce the opportunity for interested parties to put their views.

Yours sincerely, BARBARA YOUNG, Chief Executive, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, October 10.

From the Chairman of Transport 2000

Sir, The decision by the secretary of state for transport to choose the eastern route for the new Channel tunnel rail link may well be the right one. But it is not indisputably wrong to encourage British Rail to make preparations for another route, involving them in spending

over £100 million which to the end its passengers have to provide?

After all, the total grant for Network SouthEast is by comparison only £143 million this year. Is there not a moral obligation for British Rail's expenses in this matter to be reimbursed?

Yours faithfully, HUGH MONTEFIORE, Chairman, Transport 2000, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, NW1, October 10.

From Mrs Angela Bebb

Sir, Of course we in Peckham and Camberwell are happy about the choice of the Stratford route to King's Cross for the Channel tunnel rail link. An estimated 7,000 houses in Peckham alone would have been adversely affected by British Rail's chosen route.

The price that has been paid by communities along British Rail's preferred route has already been too high. To disfigure our relief that we can start rebuilding our lives would be hypocritical. But the Stratford route is an intelligent and forward looking choice by the government, albeit one we wish had been made sooner.

Yours faithfully, ANGELA BEBB (Co-Chairman, Peckham and Camberwell Action on the Rail Link), 106 Talford Road, SE15, October 10.

From Mr Malcolm Bale

Sir, Your editorial (October 10) states that the "local aggravation inevitable" with projects like the Channel tunnel rail link has spent itself. How extraordinary then that — like thousands of residents in southeast London — I am still angry over what has happened in the last three years.

British Rail has torn the heart out of Peckham — by buying up more than a hundred homes — some of them now boarded up and some of them squatted.

Local aggravation may or not be inevitable. But in this case it is justifiable.

The government is particularly vulnerable, with Major, Lamont and Hurd all making concessions to the federalists. Their latest tactic apparently is to substitute a synonym for the word "federal" in the draft treaty, thereby placating their critics in the Conservative party.

I am now convinced that the only way to influence government policy is to threaten it with defeat at the next general election. This means that anti-federalist candidates will have to run against Conservative ones in seats (especially marginals) where federalism is likely to be the viewpoint of the prospective MP.

I therefore propose to chair a committee to establish an anti-federalist league, open to men and women of all parties and ages, with the express object of running candidates against Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who would vote for a Maastricht treaty, based on any draft yet presented. I appeal to all potential supporters to contact me at the address below.

Yours faithfully, ALAN SKED, Flat 3, Aberdeon Court, 68 Aberdeon Park, Highbury, N5, October 10.

Meanwhile be assured that American studies are alive, well and waiting to go forward here in the metropolis.

Yours faithfully, STEWART R. SUTHERLAND, Vice-Chancellor, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1, October 8.

Barber Institute

From Dr Kenneth Garlick

Sir, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts in the University of Birmingham has not been kept from the public gaze (Diary, September 23).

The first Director, Professor Bodkin, was anxious about opening the museum but he lectured regularly on the collections and welcomed visiting scholars.

His successor in the early 1950s, Sir Ellis Waterhouse, pursued an active acquisitions policy. There were regular lectures and visiting parties.

Professor Richard Verdi has taken up his appointment as Director at a time when the galleries have been closed for several years for comprehensive structural repairs. For him to say "I am trying to undo 50 years of damage" is unfair to his predecessors, Bodkin, Waterhouse and Professor Hamish Miles, who laid the foundations for the innovations he proposes to introduce.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH GARLICK, Balliol College, Oxford.

Mythmatched

From Mrs Anne I. Grubb

Sir, I have just purchased from my local bookshop a copy of *The Greek Myths* by Robert Graves. It was in the section entitled "20th-century fiction". Is this part of the attempt to make the classics more accessible?

Yours faithfully, ANNE I. GRUBB, 22 Hillside Road, Southall, Middlesex, October 8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Judicial function of European Court

From Mr Gavin Smith

Sir, One hesitates to take issue with a jurist of the distinction of Lord Mackenzie-Stuart. However, his assertion (October 3) that the function of the European Court of Justice is a purely judicial one cannot go unchallenged.

In the opinion of many objective commentators, the court has since its inception been inspired more by a political urge to achieve European integration than by a desire to "ensure that in the interpretation and application of the treaties the law is observed", as it is enjoined to do by article 164 of the Treaty of Rome.

Indeed, of the two most fundamental principles of EC law one (its supremacy over national law) is exclusively and the other (its direct applicability in national proceedings) largely the product of judicial inventiveness, designed to increase the impact of EC law at the expense of national law.

Perhaps Lord Mackenzie-Stuart would like to comment on the recent statement made (extra-judicially) by one of his former brethren, Judge Mancini, that "the main endeavour of the court has been to reduce the differences between the treaties and a constitution"; that it "has sought to 'constitutionalise' the treaty... to fashion a constitutional framework for a federal-type structure in Europe" (*Common Market Law Review*, 1989). I am not aware that any present or former judges of the court have dissociated themselves from these views.

Probably the most striking recent instance of judicial policy-making

by the European Court was its decision last year in the Chernobyl case (Case 70/88), where it held that the European Parliament could in certain circumstances challenge EC legislation before the court.

The relevant treaty provision (article 173) can only be construed as denying the parliament this right. However, this "procedural lacuna" did not prevent the court from ruling, in effect, that since — in its view — the parliament needed such a power, it should be granted it.

What is particularly disturbing about that judgment is that the court must have been aware that a European Commission proposal to give the parliament this very power had been rejected by the member states only five years before, at the last revision of the treaties.

It is no doubt going too far to accuse the European Court, as did a former prime minister of France, Michel Debré, of suffering from a *mégalo-manie maladive*. Nevertheless, concern at the unorthodoxy of the court's approach cannot be dismissed merely as a slur on its integrity.

Perhaps, with the issue of European federalism high on the political agenda, those commentators who display such enthusiasm for criticism of our own judges should apply themselves with equal vigour to analysis of how the European Court performs its judicial function.

Yours faithfully, GAVIN SMITH, 1 Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, EC4, October 9.

From Mr Joseph de Courcy

Sir, "Must we not ensure that our North Atlantic and Commonwealth commitments remain of paramount importance?" ask Lord Harris and his 19 co-signatories.

Your readers might be interested to note, in this context, the content of article 5 of the Franco-Soviet bilateral treaty of October 29, 1990. According to this article both sides are called upon "to facilitate the development of co-operation in Europe, accompanied by simplification of the bonds of solidarity between Europe and other regions and continents" (my emphasis).

This curious provision seems to have a direct bearing on Britain which, after all, provides a great many of these bonds, most notably through the special relationship with America and the Commonwealth. France's commitment to work towards their "simplification" can be seen in the Luxembourg draft treaty for European political union, to which it is proposed that transatlantic relations, amongst other objectives, should become "a joint action [EC] priority" in other words, no more Anglo-American special relationship.

If this is the sort of information that a grand debate on Europe will throw up I suspect that the British public will become justifiably alarmed at the course apparently being taken by the government.

Yours etc, JOSEPH DE COURCY (Editor), *Intelligence Digest*, 17 Rodney Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, October 7.

Food for Russia

From Mr R. E. O. Mackay

Sir, Your leader ("Russia's promised land", October 2) brings into sharp focus the problems related to food production and distribution in Russia and it is quite correct that ideas, not food parcels, are what is required.

Where some assistance can be given must surely be on the question of land tenure. I am not convinced that selling the land to the peasants is the answer. In our post-war time of crisis, security of tenure was granted to farming tenants in 1948 by the Agricultural Holdings Act. This had developed out of several Acts of Parliament in the late 19th century culminating in the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1923 which gave a code for compensation to farmers at the end of their tenancies. Even today the provisions of the 1923 Act are still in use and have stood the test of time.

A similar code to govern tenancies in Russia could be the answer. It might be politically more acceptable than state sales and there is no guarantee even with such sales that rights of compulsory purchase would not be used in the future.

Yours faithfully, RODERICK MACKAY, Nuttall Cottage, Nymton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, October 2.

From the Reverend Aubrey Moody

Sir, Speaking from experience, has Mr Sallis searched the dog basket? Yours faithfully, AUBREY MOODY, Feering Vicarage, Colchester, Essex.

From Mrs Anne Broxton

Sir, Odd socks make good polishers. Yours sincerely, ANNE BROXTON, 52 Ruffs Furze, Oakley, Bedford.

From Mr Jonathan Hawes

Sir, This correspondence has lasted long enough. Could we now put a sock in it?

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN HAWES, Flat 4, 58 Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge, SW7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 11: His Excellency Mr. Salv J. Stellini was received in audience by the Duke of York and the Prince of Wales, Counsellors of State acting on behalf of the Queen, and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Malta.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission: Mr. Victor Sant (Counsellor), Mr. Carmel Mifsud (First Secretary), Mr. Victor Pace (First Secretary), Mr. Cost Muscat (First Secretary), and Mr. George Cuschieri (Second Secretary).

Their Royal Highnesses also received Mrs. Stellini.

Sir David Gilmore (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 11: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief of The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) this evening attended the Annual Officers' Regimental Dinner at The Duke of York's Headquarters Mess, Chelsea, London.

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of York this morning opened the National NEWPIN - Confirmed, "The Positive Partnership" at the Bonington Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Winemakers' Association, this evening attended a performance by the Pavilion Opera of *The Merry Widow* in the Great Hall, Winchester.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 11: The Prince Edward this morning visited the World Airline Entertainment Association exhibition at the Queen

Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.

Mrs. Richard Warburton was in attendance. The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra's concert "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem" in the Corn Exchange, Cambridge.

Mr. Geoffrey Crawford was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 11: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this morning attended the finals of the National Match Racing Championship at Queen Mary Sailing Club, Ashford, Middlesex.

This afternoon Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Corps of Signals, visited 5 Airborne Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Hankley Common, Epsom, Surrey.

Mrs. Timothy Holderness-Roddam was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 11: The Princess of Wales today visited Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs. Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon. Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness visited Ethicon Limited, Bankhead Avenue, Edinburgh.

Subsequently The Princess of Wales, President, Barnardo's, attended the Annual Conference at MacRobert Pavilion, Edinburgh Exhibition and Trade Centre.

Finally Her Royal Highness visited Milestone House, 113 Oxborough Road North, Edinburgh.

Mr. Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 11: Princess Alexandra this evening attended the Royal British Legion Poppy Ball at the Inter-Continental Hotel, London W1.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Birthdays

TODAY: Lady (Helen) Brook, founder, Brook Advisory Centre for Young People, 34; Professor Juliet Cheesbrough, 52; Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, architect and town planner, 76; Mr. Janoslav Drobny, tennis player, 70; Mr. Kenneth Griffith, actor, writer and documentary film-maker, 70; Mr. Robert Heron, former director, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 64; Mr. Alan Lamboll, former City of London Sheriff and Alderman, 68; Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP, 61; Mr. Magnus Magnusson, broadcaster, 62; Dr. John Moffatt, provost, The Queen's College, Oxford, 69; Mr. Rick Parfitt, rock singer and guitarist, 43; Vice-Admiral Sir John Parker, 76; Mr. Luciano Pavarotti, tenor, 56; Miss Angela Ripston, broadcaster, 47; Sir Archibald Ross, diplomat, 80; Mr. Michael Verney, merchant banker, 79.

TOMORROW: Air Vice-Marshal John Allen-Jones, 82; Lord Justice Bingham, 58; Mrs. Edwina Currie, MP, 45; Sir Denis Forman, former deputy chairman, Granada Group, 74; Sir Leslie Fowden, agricultural scientist, 66; Mr. Roger Gibbs, chairman, Wellcome Trust, 57; Rear-Admiral John Grant, 83; Mr. Justice Hutchison, 83; Mr. John Matias, Jockey, 38; Mr. J.M. Menzies, chairman, John Menzies, 65; Mr. Yves Montand, actor, 70; Dame Shalagh Roberts, former MEP, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier, 76; Mr. Paul Simon, singer and songwriter, 50; Miss Rosemary Sisson, writer, 68; Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, OM, MP, 66.

Memorial service

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cheverton a service of thanksgiving for the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cheverton was held yesterday at the Church of St Paul and St George, Edinburgh. The Rev. Roger Simpson officiated. Dr. David Puffinger and Dr. Bob Mash read the lessons.

Mr. Richard Derraco, Mr. Laurence Ellis, Rector of The Edinburgh Academy, and the Bishop of Edinburgh gave addresses.

Appointments

Legal Master Michael Norman Devonshire to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the South Eastern circuit.

Army Principal Nursing Officer J. Titley to be Director of Defence Nursing Services.

Lord Macfarlane

The life barony conferred upon Sir Norman Somerville Macfarlane has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Macfarlane of Bearsden, of Bearsden in the District of Bearsden and Milngavie.

University news

Oxford Selwyn College Elected to a fellowship: F.M.R. Knight.

Keat Honorary degrees are to be conferred on the following on November 30: Dr. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, D.M.S.; Ms. Jane Dudley, Principal of the London Contemporary Dance School; MA: Mr. Brian H. Arnold, chairman, H. & W. Arnold (Farms), Kent.

Polytechnic results

A. Powell received a first class LLB Honours degree in Business Law at Coventry Polytechnic. H. J. Turrell received a first class Honours degree in Business Studies at Birmingham Polytechnic.

OBITUARIES

PIO CABANILLAS



Pio Cabanillas Gallas, Spanish cabinet minister in both Franco and post-Franco governments, died of a coronary attack in Madrid on October 10 aged 67. He was born in Pontevedra in north-west Spain, on November 13, 1923.

Pio Cabanillas played a key role in Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy and was a member of the European Parliament from 1986 until his death. He was a relatively liberal minister of information under General Franco from 1973 to 1974 and, nine months after his dismissal, made a speech which was seen as a first step towards the formation of a centre-right liberal political party once political parties became legal in Spain. For good measure he made an open appeal to the Generalissimo to resign and to relinquish all his powers.

Fellow Spanish politicians called Pio Cabanillas Gallas "the cork" because, no matter how furious the political storm, he always managed to surface intact. That is not to say that this good-natured, brilliant member of the European parliament had an uneventful passage through life. Born into a family of intellectual republicans and influenced by an uncle who founded the faculty of sciences at the University of Granada, Pio Cabanillas studied law at that university, where he stood consistently at the head of his class, and went on to a career of predominantly public service.

In 1960, as chief of legal services in Franco's obligatory state-run trade unions, he engaged in an almost futile effort to increase the workers' share in the control of the vertically structured unions. In 1962, when the Franco appointed a cabinet of technocrats for the first time, Manuel Fraga Iribarne became minister of information

and tourism, and he took aboard as an under-secretary of the ministry. In that post Pio was largely responsible for drafting what was to become the 1966 press law, a much criticized piece of legislation which nevertheless removed some of the shackles on the media. In 1969, when Manuel Fraga lost his ministry in a cabinet shake-up which favoured arch-conservatives and members of *Opus Dei*, Cabanillas also lost his post. He then dedicated himself to private business and later became chairman of the board of the state-run tobacco monopoly, Tabacalera.

Following the assassination by Basque extremists of Fran-

co's most trusted aide, Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, at the end of 1973, Pio Cabanillas was offered the ministry of information and tourism. His stay there was brief. Francoist diehards saw in him a dangerous reformer who let the press say and show too much. A published photograph of a topless woman and a picture of the minister himself waving a cap which symbolised Catalan home-rule ambitions angered the Caudillo. An unidentified political enemy reportedly presented the aging Spanish ruler with a scrapbook of newspaper and magazine cuttings of scantly clad women. Never matter, as it turned out, that most of the photos had ac-

tually appeared in publications abroad, rather than in Spain; the minister was sacked forthwith.

At that time, Peridis, then as now one of Spain's leading cartoonists, had been depicting Cabanillas as a bird, in reference to his Christian name, which sounds in Spanish like a chirp. A historic panel sketched by Peridis for the Madrid evening newspaper *Informaciones*, but which was barred from publication, showed the bird with its mouth tied shut and bore the legend, "Ni Pio" - "Not even a peep."

The resilient Galician made his comeback after Franco's death. Adolfo Suárez, winner of the first post-Franco general elections, named him minister of culture in 1977. In 1980, Suárez moved him to the post of minister without portfolio. Following Suárez' resignation in 1981, the next prime minister, Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, appointed Pio Cabanillas minister of administration, and subsequently switched him to head the justice ministry. Pio's ministerial career ended in 1982, when the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) came to power.

Shortly before that, in an attempt at a congress in Mallorca to keep Suárez' badly splintered Center Democratic Union (UCD) from disintegrating, Cabanillas uttered one of his most often remembered ironic phrases: "Whoever we are, we're going to win."

A principal co-founder of what is today the major opposition, the Popular Party (PP), Pio Cabanillas became a member of the European Parliament in 1986 for Popular Coalition (CP), remaining a Euro-deputy until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Teresa Alonso Garcia de Cabanillas, and one son, Pio Gonzalo Cabanillas Alonso.

GEORGE RAY



George Frank Ray, industrial economist, died in London on September 28 aged 75. He was born in Budapest on December 12, 1915.

THE sudden death of George Ray deprives the economic profession of one of its most diligent practitioners, whose patient studies revealed much about the diffusion of industrial technologies between companies and industries. Using his statistical and linguistic skills, he carved out a niche, which other, more flamboyant economists found unfashionable. His approach was severely practical, preferring fact-finding to theorising. His main contributions included the study of industrial innovation and the diffusion of new technological processes. He published a large number of papers on the subject, sometimes as co-author. He also did much to improve our understanding of energy economics and explored a number of issues concerning trade and industrial structure.

When Ray (Rejtó as he then

was) arrived in Britain in 1957 in the aftermath of the suppressed Hungarian revolution of 1956, he left behind the first half of his life. In Hungary he had had ample experience of anti-Semitism and political discrimination.

After graduating from the Budapest Commercial Academy he had a number of jobs in the chemical, coal and brick industries. Most of the war years were spent in the forced labour camps or in hospital

after a debilitating injury. He and his family were very fortunate to survive the Hungarian fascist regime.

The post war years turned sour during the increasingly totalitarian climax of the Rakosi regime of the early 1950s. His career was cut short during the nationalisation of the country's industry and he was shifted to the administrative backwater of the Budapest Central Statistical Office.

The ascending phase of his professional life began in 1957, when, soon after arriving in England, he joined - on a temporary assignment - the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. He remained with the NIESR until his death, first as a senior research fellow and, after his official retirement, as a consultant. In 1986 he was appointed a governor of the institute.

Ray's gentle persistence, charm and professional competence earned him many friends among the economic forecasting community of Europe. He served as presi-

dent of the Association of 'Instituts Europeens de Conjoncture Economique' for six years and collaborated on a number of joint research projects across the Continent. He was a visiting professor of Surrey University from the mid-1970s.

He kept in touch with the economic developments of the country of his birth. From the early days of economic reform in 1968, he offered advice to a number of Hungarian economic research organisations and participated in many conferences which were held behind what was still regarded as the Iron Curtain. He did more than welcome the end of communist ideology and the return of democracy in 1989; he grasped the fresh opportunities to research the economics of Eastern Europe. Shortly before his death he completed a study on the diffusion of technology in former communist bloc, which will be published in the forthcoming issue of the NIESR Economic Review, a publication which he helped to mould from its inception.

BRYAN MARSHALL

Bryan Marshall, Irish jockey and trainer, died in Reading on October 9 aged 75. He was born in Cloughjordan, Tipperary, on February 29, 1916.

BRYAN Marshall was the most accomplished and polished steeplechase jockey of the decade following the end of the war. Having been champion jockey with 66 winners in the season of 1947/8, he won the Grand National on Early Mist in 1953, and again on Royal Tan in 1954.

Marshall, the son of an international show jumper, was apprenticed to Atty Perse, at Stockbridge in Hampshire. He rode his first winner on the flat at the age of 13 in 1929, and then spent five years with Hubert Hartigan in Ireland before moving to Penrith, where Noel Murless was assistant trainer. When Murless opened his own stable at Hambleton, in Yorkshire, Marshall went with him, and rode his governor's first jumping winner Intelligent Outlook in a hurdle race worth just £70 at Cartisle in December 1935. As well as riding and schooling the jumpers, he also drove the horse-box at that stage of his career.

Marshall joined the cavalry in January 1940 and was commissioned into the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards the following year. In 1946 he was demobilised with the rank of Captain.

On resuming riding, Marshall obtained his first notable success on Leap Man, trained by Fulke Walwyn at Lambourn, in the Chalkent Challenge Cup at Cheltenham's National Hunt Meeting in March 1946. That winner paved the way to his becoming stable jockey to Walwyn, for whom he won the King George VI Chase on A.G. Boley's Rowland Roy at Kempton Park in 1947. In the September of the following year Marshall performed the remarkable feat of riding at a Folkestone meeting the first five winners for Walwyn's stable - Langis Son, Loyal King, Endless, Jack Tatters and Legal Joy. All five belonged to the high betting Dorothy Paget, who could only say that she was disappointed that he was beaten into second place on her sixth runner, Loyal Monarch, in the last race.

Miss Paget was Fulke Walwyn's most important owner in those days. Unfortunately it was on her favourite horse, Lanvoco Poulinic, that Marshall rode one of his very few bad races. After jumping the last flight of hurdles well clear on Lanvoco Poulinic, who had been very heavily backed by the owner, at Sandown Park in November 1951, Marshall cased the horse with the result that he was caught close home, and beaten by half a length. He never wore Miss Paget's again, but continued to ride the horses trained by Walwyn for other owners.

An owner with whom Marshall was a great deal more happily associated was the Queen, now the Queen Mother. In the middle of December 1950 he won on her horse Manicou at Sandown Park. A fortnight later he obtained a most appropriate success on the same horse in the King George VI Chase. Marshall also rode the Queen Mother's ill-fated horse Devon Loch, who was later to fall on the run in with the Grand National at his merry, in his early days, winning on him at Hurst Park and Sandown Park in the season of 1954/5. At Hurst Park he caused much amusement as he mumbled almost incoherently while receiving the Royal congratulations, because he had forgotten to replace his false teeth, removed during the race for reasons of safety.

Both the Grand National winners ridden by Bryan Marshall, Early Mist and Royal Tan, were trained in Ireland by Vincent O'Brien, for whom he won many other races in England during that era. On Early Mist he won very easily in 1953, beating Miss Paget's Mont Tremblant by 20 lengths. By way of contrast he had to use all his strength to enable Royal Tan to win a hard fought duel with Tudor Line by a neck 12 months later.

At the end of that season of 1953/4 Bryan Marshall retired from riding on account of having suffered many injuries through falls - his false teeth



were a legacy of one of them. The hallmarks of his jockeyship had been the skill with which he presented his mounts at a fence to give them every chance of jumping cleanly, and a predilection for a position on the inside rail to save ground.

Bryan Marshall trained for a while at Berkeley House, Upper Lambourn, and subsequently for Major-General Sir Cecil Blacker, Mrs. R. Henriques and other owners at Wyld Court, Hampstead Norris. Although he had a number of useful horses in his stable, such as Regal Arch, he did not enjoy success comparable to that which he had in the saddle. He closed his stable in June 1973 to run a horse transport business.

PETER HEYWORTH

Joan Goldsbrough writes:

MAY I, as the one who has typed Peter Heyworth's biography of Otto Klemperer and has consequently shed many of the tears mentioned in your excellent obituary (October 4), add a short footnote. Peter was, I am sure, only too aware

that his time was running out, but he was determined to write as much of the second volume as he possibly could. We had, in fact, already started work on the final chapter, and I have no doubt that Volume Two can and will be published in due course.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Edward VI, reigned 1547-53; London, 1537; Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister 1924, 1929-31, 1931-35; Lissieu, 1866; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1872; Gloucestershire, 1872.

DEATHS: Pietro della Francesca, painter, Sansepolcro, Italy, 1492; Elizabeth Fry, Quaker, prison reformer, Ramsgate, 1845; Robert Stephenson, civil engineer, London, 1859; Robert E. Lee, Confederate general, Lexington, Virginia, 1870; Francois Guizot, statesman, Val Richer, France, 1874; Anatole France, writer, Nobel laureate 1921, Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire, 1924; Tom Mix, film actor, 1940; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, 1969.

Christopher Columbus discovered the New World, landing on Guanahani (San Salvador), 1492. The Boer War began, 1899. Edith Cavell, nurse, was executed by the Germans for helping Allied prisoners to escape, Brussels, 1915.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork, statesman, Canterbury, 1666; Robert Stephenson, writer, painter and inventor, Totnes, Devon, 1787; Lillie Langtry, actress, Jersey, 1853.

DEATHS: Sir Isaac Brock, soldier, the "Hero of Upper Canada", killed in battle, Queenstown, 1812; Joachim Murat, soldier, king of Naples, self-styled Joachim Napoleon, executed, Pizzo, Italy, 1815; Canova, sculptor, Venice, 1822; Sir Henry Irving, actor, Bradford, 1905; Paul Tchernichowsky, Hebrew poet, Jerusalem, 1943; Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield, co-founder of the London School of Economics, Liphook, Hampshire, 1947.

Bankruptcy brings a bargain



Father and son: Johann Steadfast and Johann Friedrich depicted by Cranach

A SWEDISH industrialist's bad fortune has provided an unexpected stroke of luck for the National Gallery, enabling it to buy at a bargain price an important 16th century painting the gallery thought it had lost at auction (Simon Tait writes).

Lucas Cranach the Elder's portrait of Johann Steadfast, Elector of Saxony, and his son Johann Friedrich the Magnanimous was sold at Christie's in July 1990 for £4.9 million. The gallery had wanted to acquire it, but the price was beyond its purchase

power. Earlier this year, however, the buyer went bankrupt and Christie's was asked to resell the diptych for his creditors. Instead, the auctioneers approached Neil MacGregor, director of the gallery, and an arrangement was made with the creditors whereby the paintings join the collection for £4.3 million paid over three years. Christie's has waived a fee for acting as go-between.

"This has been the most marvellous piece of serendipity," Mr MacGregor said yesterday. "Cranach comes only behind Holbein and Du-

rer in the panoply of Renaissance painters, and these pictures from his early career as a portraitist complete our Cranach holding."

The pictures go on show in the new gallery of 16th century German art, which opened last week with an unexplained gap in the display. "We only knew we were going to be able to get the pictures two weeks ago, so at the last minute we can both fill a gap in the collection and a gap in the gallery," Mr MacGregor said.

Cranach was court artist to the Elector of Saxony and painted the portraits in 1509.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.C. Balls and Miss C.F. Graham-Watson. The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Balls, of Loughton, Essex, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Graham-Watson, of Aldosa, Andorra.

Mr J.D. Dewar and Miss J.F.S. Hall. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr R.J. Dewar, CMG, CBE, and Mrs Dewar, of Criccieth, Pembrokeshire, and Julia, daughter of the late Mr M.R.S. Hall, MBE, and of Mrs A.B. Hall, of Loughton, Essex.

Mr S. Digby and Miss D.J. Norman. The engagement is announced between Simon, eldest son of Dr and Mrs L. Dillon Digby, of Dundrum, Ireland, and Deborah June, youngest daughter of the Hon Denis and Mrs Norman, of Norton, Zimbabwe.

Mr M. Jacobs and Miss T.K.M. Rainham. The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.G. Jacobs, of Hastings, New Zealand, and Theresa-Kimberly Maree, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A. Rainham, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr C.G. Johnston and Señorita C. Mejia. The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Captain and Mrs J.R.C. Johnston, of Affpuddle, Dorset, and Claudia, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Mejia, of Bogota, Colombia.

Mr S.J. Lyon and Miss J.A. McSherry. The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.S. Lyons, of Harrow, Middlesex, and Jacqui, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. McSherry, of Farham, Surrey.

Mr C.R.D. Levy and Dr V.R. Tuxton. Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs G.A.D. Levy, and Vicky, daughter of the Rev C.S. and Dr Tuxton, are pleased to announce that they will be married.

Mr M.E. Prud'homme and Miss H.C.J. Weedon. The engagement is announced between Michael, second son of Dr and Mrs T. Prud'homme, of Overbrook Drive, Austin, Texas, United States of America, and Heather, daughter of Dr and Mrs C.J. Weedon, of Thornfield, Burton in Lonsdale, North Yorkshire.

Mr J.H. Thomson and Miss J. Timms. The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, son of Mr and Mrs P.H. Thomson, of Nassau, Bahamas, and Julie, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs L.V.J. Timms, of Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr R.W. Griffiths and Miss B.E. Cohen. The marriage took place on Sunday, September 22, 1991, in New York, between Mr Richard William Griffiths, of London, and Miss Barbara Elizabeth Cohen, of New York.

Mr H.M.G. McAlister and Miss H.P. Bewick. The marriage took place in London on Thursday, October 10, 1991, between Mr Hugh Michael Grant McAlister, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter McAlister, of Leicestershire, and Miss Hazel Pamela Bewick, daughter of Mr Michael Bewick, and Mrs Chrystal Roper, of Northumberland.

Mr C. Wood and Miss D.S. Perry. Christopher Wood and Donna Perry were married quietly at the Grand Canyon, USA, on October 2.

Mr R.W. Griffiths and Miss B.E. Cohen. The marriage took place on Sunday, September 22, 1991, in New York, between Mr Richard William Griffiths, of London, and Miss Barbara Elizabeth Cohen, of New York.

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18 SATURDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

7.25 News and weather
7.30 Ovide. Animated adventures of a duckbilled platypus (r) 7.40
Opposites Attract. Animated series for children. This week a bat
 owl hunts for food and a field mouse keeps a wary eye on a
 hovering kestrel (s)

7.50 The Jetsons. Cartoon adventures of a space age family (r) 8.15
Clucklevision. Comedy with Paul and Barry Chuckle trying to
 mend telephones (s) 8.25 **Dungeons and Dragons.** Animated
 fantasy adventures for children (r)

9.00 Going Live! Presented by Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield.
 Among the studio guests are actor Robert Sean Leonard who
 starred in the film *Dead Poets Society*, and singer Cathy Dennis; in
 the United States, Jaki Brimble talks to Wet Wet Wet; and
 Philip Hoadson has advice on teenage problems. Plus details of
 a competition to become the cover star of the magazine *Just 17* (s)

12.12 Weather
 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider at St Andrews. The line-up
 is (subject to alterations): 12.20 Football: a preview of next week's
 European championship matches involving Wales, Scotland and
 England; 12.45, 1.05, 3.05 and 4.00 Golf: semi-final action from
 the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews. The commentators are Peter
 Allis, Bruce Critchley, Alex Hay, Clive Clark and Mike Hughesdon;
 1.00 News; 1.45, 2.05 Show Jumping: the Horse of the Year
 show from Wembley Arena with commentary by Raymond Brooks,
 Ward and Stephen Hadley; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from
 Ascot; 2.35 Motor Sport: the 13th and final round of the Esso
 British touring car championship from Silverstone. Murray Walker
 describes the action; 3.50 Football half-time; 4.35 Final Score
 news

5.00 Regional news and sport. Wales: Wales on Saturday 5.25-5.45
 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill

5.15 One to Win. Trivia quiz hosted by Andrew O'Connor in which three
 contestants strive to be the one to win a luxury holiday (s) (Coefax)

5.45 Only Fools and Horses. Another episode from an early series of
 John Sullivan's priceless saga of the wheeler-dealing Trotter
 family. Del persuades his friend Denzil to allow him to paint and
 decorate his flat in preference to an Irish professional, Brendan.
 But Denzil's wife, having experienced Del's business propositions
 before, is reluctant to let him into the flat. Starring David Jason,
 Nicholas Lyndhurst and Leonard Pearce (r) (Coefax)

6.15 Bruce Forsyth's Family Couples— on York, the west Midlands, Bedford and Kent—compete for a
 chance to win the conveyor belt goodies. (Coefax) (s)

7.15 Challenge Annika. The non-stop Miss Rice is challenged to
 organise a white wedding, including invitations, bridesmaids,
 dresses, reception and honeymoon, and renovate a 19th-century
 church in less than three days. (Coefax)

8.05 Birds of a Feather. Earthy comedy series starring Pauline Quirke
 and Linda Robson as the sisters whose husbands are serving
 prison sentences. The decision to go to a car boot sale brings back
 jealous memories for Tracey. With Lesley Joseph as their obtrusive
 neighbour Dorien. (Coefax) (s)

High Fashion: Twenties style with Louise Lombard (8.35pm)

8.35 The House of Eliott. Episode seven of the polished period drama
 set in London during the 1930s and following the fortunes of two
 sisters who try to make their way in the fashion business. Starring
 Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard. (Coefax) (s)

9.30 News with Martin Lewis. (Coefax) Sport and weather

9.50 Saturday Night Clix. Clive James casts his acerbic eye over the
 world's more obscure television offerings. His studio guest is
 comic actor and author Stephen Fry

10.35 Horse of the Year Show. David Vine, from Wembley Arena,
 introduces the climax of the night, the Everest grand prize
 followed by the cavalcade of competitors. The commentators are
 Raymond Brooks-Ward and Stephen Hadley

11.25 Film: Operation Undercover (1975) starring Michael Moriarty
 and Yaphet Kotto, with Richard Gere in his first film role as a hippy.
 Tough police drama about the corrupt internal investigation into
 the accidental killing of an undercover policeman by a rookie cop.
 Directed by Milton Katselas

1.15am Weather

9.00 Film: Caravan (1948, b/w) starring Stewart Granger, Anne
 Crawford, Jean Kent and Dennis Price. Overlooked Gainsborough
 melodrama about a penniless writer trying to win the daughter of
 the local squire. Directed by Arthur Crabtree

10.55 Look, Stranger. The story of Major Peter Wood's attempts to turn
 Hani Island into a self-sufficient community (r) 11.15 **Split of
 Asia.** The religious beliefs of the people who inhabit the far corners
 of Indonesia's widespread archipelago (r)

12.15 Film: Storm Boy (1976) starring Greg Rowe and Peter Cummins.
 Children's adventure about a young boy, living with his father on a
 remote part of the Australian coast. Directed by Henri Safran

1.45 Hairs and Graeco. Lady Victoria Leatham visits Woburn Abbey,
 the home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Tavistock (r)

2.15 Network East. Magazine series on Asian matters

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 63 of the 83-part Indian epic

3.25 Film: The Lady From Shanghai (1948, b/w) starring Orson
 Welles and Rita Hayworth. Thriller with a convoluted plot about an
 Irish man who becomes unwittingly involved in murder when he
 accompanies a beautiful woman and her husband on a cruise. One
 critic said it needed subtitles. But director Welles comes up with
 some magic touches, including the celebrated shoot-out in the hall
 of mirrors. 4.50 Animation News, *Blackberry Subway Jam*

5.00 Film: Colt 45 (1950) starring Randolph Scott, Ruth Roman and
 Zachary Scott. Standard Western adventure about a gun
 salesman who vows to track down the bank robber who stole a
 pair of his prototype revolvers. Directed by Edwin L. Marin

6.00 Japanese Language and People. The fifth of a ten-part series
 puts the spotlight on Japan's education system

6.40 Late Again. Highlights from this week's editions of *The Late Show*
 (s)

7.25 Have I Got News For You? Topical comedy news quiz (r)

7.55 News with Moira Stuart. Sport and weather

8.10 Sounds of the 60s. The second selection from the BBC's rock
 and pop archives (s)

8.40 The Second Russian Revolution.

CHOICE: The superb political history of the Soviet Union under
 Gorbachev is back for an early repeat, with the addition of new
 programmes covering events up to and including the failed August
 coup. The latest material includes an interview with an aide who
 was with Gorbachev during the leader's house arrest. The series
 would have been impossible to make without the very changes it
 describes. Apart from Gorbachev himself, *The Second Russian
 Revolution* has contributions from almost all of the leading figures,
 and they speak with a frankness that would have been unthinkable
 ten years ago. The result is a set of vivid and illuminating narratives
 that not only make fascinating television but will be rich source
 material for future historians. Tonight's programme goes back to
 1985 and gives a blow-by-blow account of the manoeuvres behind
 Gorbachev's emergence as leader (r). (Coefax)

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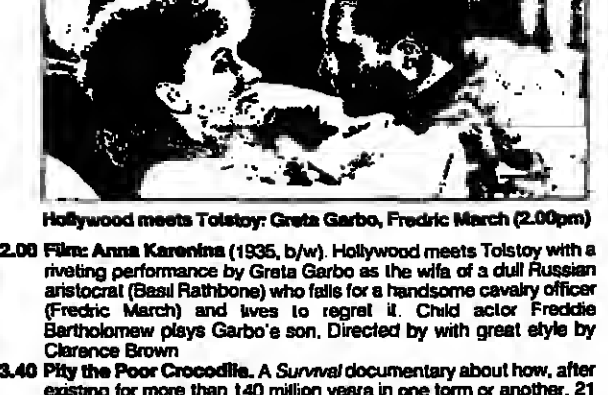
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CHANNEL 4

5.00 **Trans World Sport.** Sporting news and features (f) 7.00
Eureeka's Castle. Cartoons and music for the under-fives 7.30
Alfred J. Kwak. Adventures of a musical duck 8.00 **Starstreet.**
 Adventures of characters based on the signs of the zodiac 8.30
Kelly. A police dog and two children in a series of escapades 8.55
New Kids on the Block – On Tour. Animated adventures of the
 pop group
 9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan.** Indian drama series. In Hindustani with
 English subtitles
 10.00 **Dangerous Lives.** The second of two programmes examining
 safety at work. Why is industrial deadliness still the most
 common industrial disability when it was first identified in
 shopworkers a century ago?
 10.45 **Demle.** Animated antics of a mischievous boy
 11.00 **QTV.** Michael's Strachan meets Jersey Zoo's baby Celebes
 macaque and a collection of tortoises (f). (Teletext)
 1.30 **The Lone Ranger (b/w).** The masked crusader comes to the aid
 of a young boy who runs away from home with his pet pony in order
 to stop his mother from selling it. Starring John Hart
 2.00 **The Little House on the Prairie.** Series based on the books by
 Laura Ingalls Wilder about a family struggling to make a living on
 the Kansas plains during the 1880s. Starring Karen Grassle and
 the late Michael Landon
 3.00 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea.** Vintage underwater science
 fiction adventures, starring David Hedison



of the 23 species of crocodile are now under threat of extinction (r)

1.10 **Belgian Magic.** A travelogue exploring Belgium's mysterious landscapes (P).
4.22 **Asian Drama.** A dramatic serial about three Asian families living in the Birmingham area.
4.55 News and weather.
05.00 **Sumo: the London Basho.** Live coverage of that last day's bouts from the Albert Hall, presented by Lyall Watson and Charles Palmer.
06.00 **Press Gang.** Children's drama about young journalists of the *London Evening News* (PG).
06.30 **The Cosby Show.** The American family sitcom includes a guest appearance by the blues guitarist B.B. King.
07.00 **Equinox: The Lean Burn Engine.** An investigation into the usefulness of the catalytic converter, once hailed as the saviour of clean air and compulsory for cars in many countries. There are now concerns over the increased levels of carbon dioxide the converter

0.00 **Producers' (Telecast)**

0.00 **American Football:** The first of four programmes in which Murray Sayle travels on the final 6,000 mile ride of the Trans-Canada railroad, beginning in sleepy Sydney, Nova Scotia (*r*). (Telecast)

0.00 **American Football:** The featured game is the Cleveland Browns at the Washington Redskins. Plus the Cincinnati Bengals at the Dallas Cowboys.

0.00 **Beyond Jungle (1955, b/w)** starring Glenn Ford and Sidney Poitier, Classroom drama, introduced by Bill Haley's *Rock Around the Clock*, about a teacher taking on delinquent pupils at a tough New York school. Considered shocking at the time but tame by later standards. Directed by Richard Brooks

11.55 Vietnam Cinema: Brothers and Relations (1988, b/w), Continuing the series of films giving the Vietnamese view of the war with the United States. Sensitive drama about a soldier who returns home from the front only to find his family has been

returns to his family but finds that, thinking him dead, they have let his room to a stranger. He can find only menial employment while his brother makes a small fortune on the black market. Directed by Dang Viet Bao, Nguyen Huu Luyen and Tran Vu. Ends at 1.35am

1.00pm Cheaper by the Dozen 6.00 Car 5
Where are You? 6.30 The Monkees 7.00
Lionel Lincoln 7.30 The Goodies 8.00 G

WICKY SPORTS

7 p.m. The Astute and Marcopolo Segeliste,
The Vela, Avenida 3 No., Espino Los Alifan
Screensport

8 p.m. The Astral satellite.
7.00pm Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 6.00
Indy Car 8.00 Rugby World Cup 10.00
American College Football 12.00 Volvo GOLF
Golf Tour 12.45 Liverpool v Arsenal Cvs 2.45

0.30 Waterports World 8.30 Assignment
adventure Line 10.30 World of adventure: 10.30
Line 11.30 WWF Wrestling 1.00pm
Australian Rules Football 3.30 Italian League
Football 5.30 Red Line 8.00 Live British
Live Rugby world Cup 4.30 Live Rugby
world Cup 6.25 Volvo PGA Golf Tour 8.00
Volvo PGA Golf Tour 9.00 Revs 9.30 Rugby
World Cup 10.30 International Three Day
Eventing 11.30 Gillette World Sport Special

EUROSPORT

Via the Astra satellite.
 10.00am Aerobics 8.30 Trans World Sport
 10.30 Berlin Marathon 10.30 Gol 11.00
 12.00 Food 12.00 Fun Magazine 12.30pm Live
 1.00 Indoor Tennis 1.30 Rhythmic Gymnastics
 Brothers 1.00 White shadow 1.55 Power
 Hits USA 2.50 Spain Spain 3.05 Roller Derby
 4.00 American Gameshow 5.30 Green
 Hornet 6.00 The Self-Vision Programme
 8.00 Close 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

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BUSINESS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-24
● WEEKEND MONEY 25-34
● SPORT 35-40

WEEKEND
MONEY

Back home

Yesterday was a day for missing conferences. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, missed the Conservative party conference celebrations of the latest fall in the rate of inflation from 4.7 to 4.1 per cent. He was on a plane to Bangkok, where leading finance ministers are meeting to talk about aid to the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the Soviet delegation was not in the Thai capital, but back in Moscow hammering out the details of economic union between the constituent republics. Page 23



John Vallance, BT chairman, is used to dealing in big numbers. The number he was handling yesterday, 16,000, was of jobs to go over 18 months, bringing a gloomy end to a depressing week on the jobs front. Page 22

Home help

The Halifax will refund some of the initial cost of buying a house by repaying part of the mortgage indemnity premium if borrowers move within five years. Page 29

Bonus fears

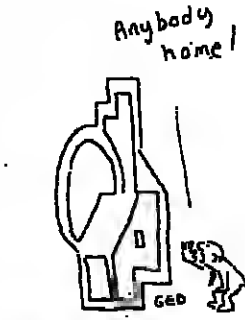
Hundreds of Scottish Mutual policyholders are in danger of missing out on a bonus worth thousands of pounds, which is due to be paid next year. Page 26

Estates survey

Most people inherit estates below the threshold for inheritance tax, a survey finds. This is still likely to be the case in 2025. Page 27

Letters

Page 32



The chief executive of Nationwide Building Society, invites customers wishing to make complaints to write to him personally. A reader calls for ordinary savers and borrowers to be represented on the Nationwide board.

Clearer picture

Independent Television Commissioners are at last to decide which television companies will win the regional franchises. Wednesday is the big day. Page 22

Sad redundancy

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of 3i, the venture capital group, described a fellow director's departure as "not a resignation but a sad, senior redundancy". Page 22

Fox's tale

An internal review carried out at the London Fox futures market shows a series of cash payments to artificially lift trading. Page 23



Deborah Germain and her husband, Neil, who took out a fixed-rate £61,000 mortgage 18 months ago, now face a £4,600 penalty if they transfer to a different lender to take advantage of a cheaper offer. Page 27

Gains reduced

Eight cuts in the bank base rates in the past year have reduced gains for building society savers by up to 25 per cent. Unit trusts offer an alternative. Page 30

Peps push

The possibility that a Labour government may abolish personal equity plans is being used to urge more investors to take out a Pep before the general election. Page 29

European trusts

Fidelity has launched the first in a series of new investment trusts. Investment will focus on stocks in continental Europe. Page 29

Secret payouts

Banks secretly compensate thousands of people a year for disputed cash dispenser withdrawals, even although they will never admit publicly that such phantom withdrawals exist. They say the payments are to keep the goodwill of customers. Many more customers, however, are refused these payments and feel they are being treated like thieves. Page 25

WEEK ENDING

Matthew Bond

Links in the chain gang

Malcolm Rifkind is a man familiar with adversity. As a Conservative in Scotland, he has to be. But even he must be alarmed by the storm that has blown up in the wake of the Western Samoan-like encounter with Michael Heseltine that apparently convinced him to link the leafy boulevards of Paris with the definitely unleafy London suburb of Stratford-upon-Ava.

The criticism in particular centres on the transport secretary's suggestion that the £4 billion needed to build the high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel should be provided by the private sector. Given that two years of recession has left the private sector distinctly short of spare billions, Mr Rifkind is clearly an optimist.

Those inclined to call him something rather less polite had been provided with ample ammunition two days earlier by Eurotunnel, the problem-ridden pioneer of private sector infrastructure development. Perhaps anticipating the body blow the transport secretary was poised to deliver to his beloved Channel tunnel,



Sir Alastair Morton painted a black picture of delays, cost overruns and postponed dividends.

But *Week Ending* believes there is an alternative solution to the problem of private sector involvement. After all, it was not very many years ago that the punishment for a wide range of misdemeanours was a prolonged, often very prolonged, period of solitary confinement under a burning sun as a member of a chain gang. So, given this government's continuing enthusiasm for self-regulation, anyone linked to the merest whiff of financial scandal could be immediately dispatched for a character-improving, subsidiary-busting period of pickaxe work in the Rainham Marshes.

By providing brains as well as brawn, the rail link might actually get finished. Particularly useful would be Mark Blundell, who this week departed as chief executive of the London Futures and Options Exchange. Part of the rail link's viability depends on selling property at enhanced values, so experience of property trading could win early parole.

Infrastructure projects such as railways need investors able to take the long-term view. At this time, of course, there are none better than the Japanese. Although there are no candidates for the chain gang from Normans' London office, a number of their colleagues in Tokyo could be in for a short, sharp, six-week transfer to Kent. How much of a shock this would prove, however, is debatable as all those involved are known to be railway enthusiasts.

A sure way to speed up work would be to sentence Lord Young — fresh from this week's mauling in absentia in the European Court — to an indefinite stretch, making his release conditional on him somehow finding the government funds to make the project pay.

But of course, in a party conference week that saw Chancellor Lamont admit that all governments make mistakes, it would be no surprise to see the rear of the chain gang being brought up by the muscular figure of "lifer" Lawson, muttering that if base rates had stayed at 7.5 per cent a high-speed link to John O'Groats would have been viable. Now, where's that whip?

BUSINESS PROFILE: Lord Weinstock

Electric lord on a short fuse

The head of GEC has a reputation

for being tough, mean and rude.

Carol Leonard discovers the reality

Every morning after breakfast, Lord Weinstock of Bowden, managing director of The General Electric Company and one of Britain's longest-serving captains of industry, shuts himself in his dressing room, puts on an operatic compact disc and turns up the volume so high that it could be a live performance.

As he listens, he will sporadically wave either his toothbrush or razor in the air, conducting. If it is an emotional piece, tears will stream down his face. His choice of opera will vary with his mood. For the past week he has been listening to *William Tell*. "It's a very beautiful opera, all about hunting," says Lord Weinstock.

"The fight for Swiss independence. You hear the hunting horn over and over again." He laughs at any analogy drawn between this renewed interest in hunting horns and the steel eye he is known to have been keeping on British Aerospace, one of GEC's main customers. "We don't deal in companies," he says. "We are in electrical and electronic engineering, and looking to increase our efficiency. I don't approve of raising money to plunder other companies. If, by buying a company, we could increase our efficiency, that would be different."

He disapproves of the very concept of a conglomerate. "Eventually they all fall to bits." His ambition is to create a business "that will last forever".

Lord Weinstock, aged 67, is known for his outspoken, often unfashionable opinions, for his dislike, verging on distrust, of both politicians and the City. "I am not a City man," he says. "We have never issued shares, we have never had to borrow." Reluctantly, he elaborates. "It is not a place where I feel fulfilled and I don't actually like it. The counters are passed around ever faster without any real asset being created."

He questions the method by which the City determines the level of share prices. GEC's share price performance has long been disappointing and the Weinstock family does, after all, speak for about 40 million — worth almost £75 million. "They are looking for hype when they should be looking for solidity," he says. "I always do what is in the company's best interest and the share price, if it is rational, ought to follow, but it does not."

The City, in return, is not too keen on Lord Weinstock. They are, after all, complete opposites. He is seen as being unadventurous, cautious to the point of being boring. He is criticised for sitting on a vast cash mountain — now estimated to be in the region of £700 million — when they would rather he had been buying companies. They complain that he dislikes spending money on stockbroking or mercurial banking fees, that his Stanhope Gate offices, off London's Park Lane, have not been redecorated

for 20 years, that he loves to complain — he calls it his Jewish sense of humour — and that he is notoriously litigious. They will tell you he is a ruthlessly tough manager and that he can be extremely rude. He avoids publicity and has consequently become a mysterious figure.

Sara Morrison, the former vice chairman of the Conservative party and a director of GEC for 13 years, says that Lord Weinstock is oblivious to this. "We tell him that he has a carrying voice, that he will talk to some fellow and think he has patted him, but that that poor fellow thinks he has just left his entrails hanging from the ceiling."

Lord Weinstock protests loudly that none of this is true. "I keep hearing that people are afraid of me," says Lord Weinstock. "But I don't understand that at all. They obviously don't know me. No, I can't describe myself. All I know is that I am very different from the image everyone seems to have."

He has a short fuse but is sufficiently controlled that he rarely loses his temper. He is more likely to vent irritation with a cutting remark, takes his business responsibilities seriously — GEC employs 167,000 people, more, in fact, than the British Army — and talks about his "corporate family" with obvious affection. He admits that he does get emotional about the business — "A very great part of my life has been spent in this business" — that he is still impatient but that with old age he is "less intolerant than I used to be".

He avoids publicity because he is shy. "I'm not very good at talking about myself," he says. Then he alters "shy" to "introverted". "Introverted is different," he explains. "It implies self-doubt."

He remembers feeling pleased when the Labour party won the election in 1945 — "I felt we had to have a welfare state, I believed in the idea of a health service. I did not believe in poverty" — and he is now "ambivalent" about politics. His political allegiance will, he says, be decided by which ever party offers the best future for his business. He would always put the business before personal needs. He gives large sums to charity, always anonymously, and Mrs Morrison reveals that a former school teacher, who was the first person to spot that the young Weinstock might have potential, was regularly the recipient of gifts from Lord Weinstock. He never forgets people who have been kind.

GEC's offices have been redecorated. What they lack is any hint of glamour. Lord Weinstock admits that he is mean — but only with company money. "The company's money belongs to the shareholders and we have no right to spend it in a way that is not remunerative to the shareholders."

With his own money, he is anything but mean. He has a flat



Proud provider: Lord Weinstock and his wife, Netta, at home in London's Grosvenor Square

in Belgravia, a Georgian house in Wiltshire and a stud farm in Ireland, accommodating 50 mares, 60 horses and 30 foals. He excuses his passion for horse racing by describing it as the ultimate form of competition. As a young man he used to spend his months salary within three days. "I like good things," he says. "I would rather have nothing at all than have something second rate."

He wears a Hermes tie but says that he has never been drunk. He is a man of moderation. "I decided long ago that I didn't want to make money, I wanted to make things," he says. He is, however, defensive about any suggestion that he married into money, even though his wife, Netta, is Sir Michael Sobell's daughter. "My family were provided for by me, not by him." It is clearly a sore point. Lord Weinstock is a proud man.

He has two children, Susan, aged 36, and Simon, aged 39. GEC's commercial director, Lord Weinstock denies that he would like Simon to inherit his job. "It simply is not true."

Although not a religious man he does adhere to certain Jewish traditions — "merely out of respect to my parents. The things they would have had me do, maybe it is my way of maintaining some form of connection with them". Those parents, both Polish immigrants — his father was a master cutter for a West End tailor — were dead by the time Lord Weinstock was nine years old. He was brought up in Stoke Newington by his five older

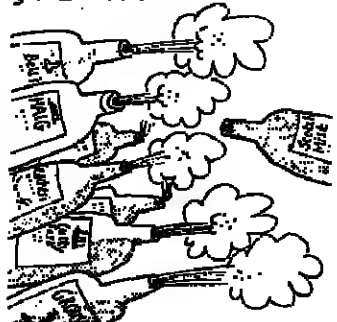
brothers, all more than 17 years his senior. It was a happy and far from poverty stricken childhood.

The fact that he had no sisters perhaps explains what he calls a wariness of women. "I am most comfortable with men, I find men more logical," he says. "The relationship between women and the continuity of the race has always made me slightly afraid of them — even if afraid is not quite the right word." It is an unexpected sentiment from such a daunting man, even if he is only daunting because of his intellectual ability. It is more surprising than the vision of him crying as he listens to Verdi's *Requiem*.

I ask him why he is always so controlled, except in the privacy of his dressing room, where even his own family leaves him alone, and he replies that if he were not, he would be more vulnerable. A curious response from a man cushioned from the harsher realities of life, from every day insecurities, by more than 30 years of success. "The more of you which is seen to be not in accordance with this mythical idea people have of you, the more vulnerable you are," I question his rationale. "Because you are just like everybody else," he replies. "I really do not want people to see me like that." Has this arch realist, this self-proclaimed, coldly logical thinker, based his life on a false personal image then? He thinks carefully for a minute. "If you are sensitive enough you will develop a hard shell. As a means of protection. You get in first."

A battle fought in the wrong spirit

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



MILK whey alcohol must be less nauseating than it sounds. A winery in Nelson, New Zealand, has run afoul of the Scotch whisky industry by selling such a potent called Goulter's Scotch Mist.

Don Allen, the managing director of the Redwood Cellars winery, has received court papers from representatives of Scotch producers alleging unfair trading and seeking an injunction to take the product off the shelves.

"They have come on very heavy, but I don't see how anyone could be misled into thinking our product was Scotch whisky," Mr Allen said. And he has altered the labels of his product to make it plain it is not.

The guardians of Scotch whisky's reputation are not so easily satisfied, however. The Scotch Whisky Association robustly declared: "A product can only be called Scotch if it is made in

Scotland using malted barley and is matured in Scotland for a minimum of three years."

Perhaps the SWA has reason to be concerned. Mr Allen had declared on his product: "It looks like, it tastes like, but it isn't." But he may have become an unwitting pawn in the centuries-old rivalry between the British and the French. If he could make milk whey alcohol taste like cognac, the lawsuit would vanish.

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G7 close to agreeing outline of rescue plan for Soviet Union

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN BANGKOK

THE outlines of a financial rescue package for the Soviet Union seemed close to agreement yesterday, despite a further postponement of formal discussions about the Soviet economy among the finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries.

American officials were indicating in Bangkok, where the G7 began a two-day meeting, that a consensus had emerged about the need for "some alleviation" of the Soviet debt burden. Sharp disagreements remained, however, especially between Germany and America, about the

mechanism for giving the Soviets help.

This issue was expected to come to a head this evening, with the belated arrival of the Soviet delegation. Before that, the G7 will debate the Soviets' plight among themselves this afternoon, after completing their review of the world economy and foreign exchange markets.

In yesterday's session, the G7 were said to have generally agreed on the upbeat world economic forecasts presented by the International Monetary Fund last week. There were also indications that the G7 communiqué, to be issued today, would express satisfaction with recent movements in the foreign

exchanges, but would stop short of specifically endorsing the recent sharp rise of the Japanese yen.

On the Soviet Union, there are three big questions outstanding, according to officials in Bangkok: how much financial relief will the Soviet Union require in the short term to avert any delays in repayment of government guaranteed debts? How can such relief be organised, given the political chaos in the Soviet Union and the country's non-membership of the IMF? And how should the burden of assistance be shared among the G7 and other industrialised countries? On each of these questions, significant

differences remain to be ironed out in today's discussions and sources say that these may prevent an official announcement being agreed in Bangkok. According to American sources, the Soviet Union may need \$5 billion of further assistance in addition to the \$7.5 billion worth of food aid already pledged.

British officials say, however, that all estimates of the Soviet Union's needs are speculative unless a clearer indication emerges from the Soviet delegation. Private bankers in Bangkok say that the Soviet Union may actually enjoy a current account surplus in the months ahead because of sharp cuts in its

imports. But they concede that a severe liquidity problem may still arise because of the need to repay principal, as well as interest, on short term loans.

Because the Soviet Union's immediate situation is due to principal, rather than interest obligations, America and Japan are arguing that a short-term solution would be for creditors to roll over loans coming due. Germany is unhappy with this approach, however, since it accounts for more than half of the total short-term lending to the Soviet Union. If the existing loans were simply rolled over, Germany would continue to bear a disproportionate share of the

Soviet support. The alternative of offering the Soviet Union some kind of special financing or bridging loans, seems to present even greater problems. Given the present turmoil in the Soviet Union, a G7 loan would be "a bridge to nowhere" and would violate Central Bank and Treasury laws in America and several other countries, officials say.

The G7 is likely to agree that trying to maintain a single currency would offer the Soviet Union the best hope of reforming its economy, but only if full responsibility for monetary and fiscal policy was delegated to the central government.

Rate 'on target for 4% by year-end'

UK inflation falls to beat European average at 4.1%

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, confidently predicted a further drop in inflation after government figures showed the annual rate slowed to 4.1 per cent in September, its lowest since April 1988.

Treasury officials, attending the Group of Seven meeting in Bangkok with the Chancellor, emphasised that October's inflation was bound to be lower than September's because of changes in petrol prices and mortgage rates last year. Beyond that, there was every chance that the improvement in underlying inflation would continue into next year.

The fall in the headline rate of the retail price index from 4.7 per cent in August continued the steady deceleration from last autumn's 10.9 per cent peak. It was warmly received at the Conservative party conference.

In the City, economists expressed disappointment at the data, which were slightly worse than expected, with core inflation worryingly stubborn.

David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, said in Blackpool the figures showed the government was on target to achieve average annual inflation of 4 per cent by the end of the year. He welcomed the return of British inflation to below the 4.9 per cent European Community average for the first time in five years.

Given further mortgage rate cuts and other price falls in the pipeline, forecasters expect annual inflation to come down to about 3.5 per cent this month, almost certainly achieving sub-German levels.

In September, the RPI rose 0.4 per cent to 134.6, reflecting

higher prices for clothing and household goods as summer sales ended. Prices for leisure services, such as the theatre and football matches, also rose. But a drop of 5.5 per cent in seasonal food prices, the biggest since 1962, mainly due to potato prices, limited the month-on-month increase.

The annual figure was distorted by the effect of high, pre-Gulf war oil prices falling out of the year-on-year comparison, as well as by mortgage rate changes and the poll tax. Housing costs fell 0.1 per cent in September for an annual decline of 8.8 per cent, the biggest drop since records began in 1947.

But despite falling inflation, the scope for cutting interest rates is limited. After political jitters this week, prompting Bank of England intervention, the foreign exchange market began to take a more favourable view of the pound.

Sterling strengthened within the exchange-rate mechanism, climbing above the French franc. At the London close, the pound was nearly half a penny higher at DM2.9111 and 30 points up at \$1.7185.

The government's preferred measure of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell from an annual 6.2 per cent in August to 5.7 per cent in September, its lowest since April 1989.

More rigorous measures of core inflation pointed to little change, however.

Robbie Marshall, chief economist at Chase Investment Bank, estimated that the RPI, excluding oil prices, food and mortgage interest payments, ticked up to an annual 6.5 per cent in September from 6.4 per cent in August.

Gwyn Hache, economist at James Capel, said his core index pointed to annual inflation stuck at 5.8 per cent and remaining around that level until January.

Economists were surprised by the strength of most of the components of the RPI, given the weakness of the economy.

Chris Dillow, an economist at Nomura Research, said: "The idea that we've got inflation locked is a myth." The real test would come as the economy recovers. He foresees the RPI climbing back to an annual 4.2 per cent in December.

American retail sales rebounded 0.7 per cent last month, according to official figures published yesterday, suggesting that consumers might be starting to shed some caution about the recovery. Wholesale prices rose just 0.1 per cent in September, restrained by a further decline in food prices.

Marlin Fitzwater, White House spokesman, hailed the latest price data as "extraordinarily good news" for the economy, as they pointed to inflation falling and interest rates staying low.

The administration has become increasingly concerned about the fragility of the recovery and has used every opportunity in recent weeks to try to talk up the economy.

The retail sales figures contrasted with the gloomy survey issued by America's leading retailers on Thursday, which reported generally anemic sales in September. Many reported activity little changed, or even below the level of a year ago, when business dried up because of the invasion of Kuwait.



Concrete evidence: John Parry believes the drop in the building's value is permanent

Hammerson plans to make £90m writedown

By MATTHEW BOND

HAMMERSON, Britain's third largest property company, has said that it intends to make a £90 million year-end provision against an office block it has built in New York.

The warning accompanied interim results for the half year to end-June and overshadowed a 7 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £31.2 million and a maintained interim dividend of 3.5p.

The planned writedown is one of the biggest the property market has seen in recent times. The 590,000 sq ft building on Fifth Avenue was completed earlier this year at a total cost of \$200 million. But unless there is a miraculous recovery in the New York office market, the company plans to cut the building's book value by \$150 million to just \$50 million.

John Parry, managing director, said a small provision against the building had been taken last year through reserves in the belief that the drop in value was temporary. "But we now take the view that it is permanent."

Tempos, page 22

EC intervened over Rolls

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

FRANS Andriessen, EC external relations commissioner, intervened on behalf of Rolls-Royce in negotiations with Japan to try to pressure All Nippon Airways into buying Trent engines for its Boeing 777 fleet.

A commission source said Mr Andriessen made it "quite clear" to Tokyo that in view of the Community's £1.05 billion trade deficit with Japan, ANA's choice of Rolls-Royce could significantly help economic and political relations between the two trade partners. The source said: "We tried to explain that if [a Rolls-Royce order] would fit happily into a new relationship. We talked about the deficit of payments, and the opening of markets, but in the end, it was

not a purely political decision. Other factors were obviously taken into account."

One of these was British Airways' decision not to buy the upgraded Merlin 800 for its Boeing 777s, which put ANA off the British-made engine. The ANA contract would have been worth £409 million, and its loss has been partially responsible for Rolls-Royce shedding 6,000 workers.

The source said details of the plea had not been made public before because intervening on behalf of one company is such a sensitive matter. At the European parliament in Strasbourg this week, aero-industry lobbyists said many parliamentarians are not doing enough to help Europe's main engine

makers, which face a tricky future in the face of declining output of the world's main aircraft makers.

The 777 is the only new long-haul plane to be made by Boeing this decade, and with ANA and BA turning to American manufacturers, the future for Rolls-Royce and SNECMA of France, the EC's main jet engine makers, looks bleak in this sector.

Some MEPs suggest that Rolls-Royce may have to further its links with BMW, with whom it has a joint engine-making operation. The two companies are considering setting up a plant that would create 6,000 jobs outside Berlin, a controversial move given Rolls-Royce's domestic cutbacks.

Fox review shows cash payments

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE findings of an internal review at The Futures & Options Exchange (Fox) has uncovered a series of cash payments to members, as well as widespread incentives and indemnities, could result in a test case to consider the legality of what many consider usual market practices.

At the least, the report's conclusions will force a shake-up at Fox and the issuance of several reforms, including a new set of guidelines on market practice.

Phillip Thorpe, Fox's new chief executive, and David Hardy and Pat Elmer, two independent directors, formed a committee one week ago to report on alleged irregularities at the exchange, mostly connected to the new property futures contract that was suspended on Wednesday. Their findings were put to an emergency board meeting yesterday.



Thorpe taking action

Mr Thorpe said the final report would be submitted to the Securities and Investments Board next week. SIB, in turn, will pass the document on to the DTI, which is the only body empowered to bring criminal proceedings under section 47(2) of the Financial Services

Act which refers to conduct creating a misleading impression of a market.

In a letter sent to members yesterday, Mr Thorpe revealed that cash payments of £228,000 had been paid to certain members. Payments totalling about £168,055, plus VAT, were made to one member in respect of trades undertaken in the property contract market. These trades were undertaken with the guidance of Mark Blundell, Fox's former chief executive. Mr Blundell resigned last Saturday along with Saxoo Tate, the exchange's chairman.

A further £25,000 payment was paid to a member as a consultancy fee to promote the property contract and several "dummy" trades or crossings were made "with the encouragement of the exchange".

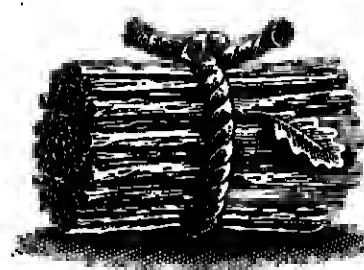
In the little traded rice futures market, payments of £10,000, plus VAT, were made to two members as incentives. On the metal futures index, members received levy rebates or incentives totalling £21,000, subject to a minimum volume being achieved.

Brokers trading rubber and arabica coffee were given levy "holidays" and, in rubber, some members received discounted rates on FAST, the screen trading system.

It is unlikely that SIB will exercise its powers to deregulate the exchange as long as management, compliance and accounting reforms are instituted. This has been ensured by Mr Thorpe's secondment to Fox from the Securities and Futures Association.

Fox did not identify which members had been given cash payments but one member, Stoden (UK), said that while it had not received any cash, it, like all members, had taken advantage of levy holidays on clearing fees.

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TT 12/10/91

By NEIL BENNETT

Last month, Liberty and UAP consolidated their controlling stake in Sun Life into a new joint venture company. Liberty now wants to develop its relationship with UAP on the continent.

A COHEN, the metal

maker, blames weakness in the secondary aluminium industry for a setback in pre-tax profits from £1.29 million to £555,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was £41.2 million (£46.6 million) and the interim dividend is held at 6.6p a share. Coheo suggests there could be a modest recovery in the second half.

Vol '000		Vol '000	
Cardbury	2,443	Lomha	941
CJ	74	Lucas	2,872
Courtside	718	MSB	3,060
Enterprise	332	Measwell Cn	409
Eurotunnel	583	MEPC	196
Fleors	1,496	Midland	2,277
Fortis	1,900	Nat Power	9,368
Gen A/C	1,152	Nat West	2,421
GEC	2,888	N W Water	235
Glasco	1,651	Nthn Foods	1,000
Grand Met	2,051	P&O	1,453
GUS 'A'	159	Pearson	289
HPG	612	Pilkington	1,882

NTS

Form & Content: Lip Group, Harding Co. Co.

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading.

Lautro sets inadequate standards

Five years after the Financial Services Act came into operation, insurance salesmen may have to demonstrate that they know a bit about the policies they sell. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) this week published its proposals on training and competence, which should be in place by 1993.

The policy-buying public might have expected a little more, a little sooner. Last year, the McDonald report concluded that competence in the industry was fragmented and inconsistent. This is not surprising as there are no minimum training standards.

Now Lautro has put its mind to coming up with some standards. Companies will have to ensure that the training, in terms of both knowledge and skills, of company representatives is properly organised from 1993. These training arrangements will be vetted by the regulator.

Once again, the recommendations fall short of examinations set by outside bodies for sales-

men. Minimum standards of knowledge could be certified by such tests. Salesmen could also be required to go through their sales routine for examiners. It is a missed opportunity.

Insurance groups vary widely in their training and will, no doubt, continue to do so. Lautro says that some companies will have little to do to meet the common threshold standard of competence.

Others will have to spend a lot of time and money because their current training is virtually non-existent or ignores training once the salesman has completed a 48-hour induction course.

It does not matter to some firms that the sales staff are unclear about the different tax regimes of a personal equity plan and an investment bond, so long as they know which one pays most commission or is part of



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

this month's special promotion. Even when the common threshold is imposed on new recruits the different philosophies of companies may still be more important.

One respected and long-established insurance company with a large direct sales force tells of a salesman it had to let go. He was doing a lot of business for the company but was rather too forceful when completing a deal. The company felt he was not suited to investment selling and told him so. A call soon came from a rival company asking why

the salesman had been let go. His hard-sell tactics were detailed and the rival company took him on and asked if there were any more like him.

The skills and knowledge of existing staff will have to be formally assessed before they are allowed to practise, once the new training requirements come into force.

However, the assessment will be carried out by staff from the same company, whose competence will, in turn, have been judged by colleagues.

Most customers would be

horrified at how little training the so-called investment expert who advises them on pensions or endowment mortgages actually has. If serious standards are not to be set for salesmen, investors will have to do more to educate themselves before they invest. It may mean more awkward questions for salesmen, which can be no bad thing.

A blessing

Nationwide savers have good reason to thank the Rev Vivian Singh. He proposed that the building society should inform existing savers when introducing new accounts and allow them to take immediate advantage of better savings rates.

His motion attracted the postal votes of almost 90,000 members

despite the society pointing out to members that the resolution would not be binding on the board. However, the society swung the vote with proxies.

While the society's rules have not been changed, its practices have. When three new accounts were launched this month, the society told savers in existing accounts that they could get a better rate. The Nationwide has also opened a freephone line (0800 400417), which can be used at any time for information on interest rates.

Now Mr Singh would like to have a more lasting influence on the running of his society and is seeking the backing of 50 society members who have each had £100 invested for two years.

Mr Singh will know that it is not easy to get elected, although Nationwide members made history when they first elected Sheila Heywood to the board. This year, she received 157,000 votes more than Tim Melville-Ross, the chief executive.

Banks secretly reimburse phantom cash payouts

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

BANKS secretly compensate thousands of customers every year for disputed cash dispenser withdrawals. Many thousands more are refused any payment and are made to feel that they, their families, or work colleagues are thieves.

The banks have never admitted publicly that phantom withdrawals can happen. They say the payments are to keep the goodwill of customers. The nearest a financial institution came to admitting the possibility that customers were not mistaken was in January, when the Clydesdale Bank, said an engineer was being investigated for unauthorised withdrawals from cash machines.

Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, will report next month that the number of complaints about cash dispensers increased substantially in the year to the end of September. It has on several occasions found for the customer when the bank has been unable to produce a satisfactory audit trail or computer records.

The Consumers' Association plans a campaign of court cases against banks and building societies that refuse to compensate customers for disputed withdrawals. It wants the courts to test the infallibility of the machines. Last month, it backed a case involving a customer who disputed £570 of withdrawals from his Bank of Scotland account. The bank settled out of court without admitting the fallibility of its cash dispensers.

On Tuesday, representatives of the banks met Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to discuss plastic card fraud and ways of increasing security. The banking ombudsman favours the introduction of cards and machines that use a thumb print for identification instead of a number. It is the Consumers' Association also back the use of cameras to record cash dispenser withdrawals.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "A lot of bank customers are certain they have not made withdrawals and that their card was secure. The bank puts immediate members of the family in the dock. It can be very unpleasant. It is not enough to make discretionary payments. We would like the situation to change so that with any disputed transaction the burden of the proof is with the bank."

When the banking code comes into force, next year, the onus should be on banks



to prove the negligence of customers or compensate them. Some banks are already anticipating this regime to some extent.

Lloyds Bank says it makes thousands of ex gratia payments a year to customers who dispute cash dispenser withdrawals. "We do give established customers the benefit of the doubt once," said the bank. Although the bank does expect the customers to report the disputed withdrawal to the police before a payment is made.

Barclays, the largest of the big four banks, said 5,000 disputes about plastic cards could not be resolved by branches last year. It had 151 million automated teller transactions in 1990. "We do make ex gratia payments at the manager's discretion," the bank said.

When the customer of any bank disputes a withdrawal, the bank first of all finds out the time and place of the transaction. Often that is sufficient to remind the customers of withdrawals they have genuinely forgotten. The vast majority of disputed withdrawals involve machines close to the customer's home or work say the banks.

They also say that inspection of the audit rolls of the machines often reveal that the children or the spouse of the

customer used their own cards in the machine at the time of the so-called phantom withdrawal. This might come to light if customers are adamant that they did not use the specified cash dispenser at that time. Many others are not so easily resolved.

The banks do not claim that machines cannot make mistakes. When a disputed transaction is reported they look at the machine, check the transactions before and after the disputed ones and check that the machine has no history of malfunctions.

All the banks admit cash dispensers can pay out too much if they are stacked incorrectly or old notes are used that stick together. These are rare mechanical faults and are not electronic ones that would allow one customer to dip into another's account they say.

The few established cases where one customer has accessed the account details of another on the screen do not prove that money could be taken from another account, the banks say. This could only happen if, by error, another customer happened to be given the same account number, and personal identification number, and then it would be a case of human rather than computer error.

In one case, a customer only persuaded the bank she had

not made a £20 withdrawal from a cash dispenser when it checked and discovered that she did not have a cash card.

Customers who maintain that the transaction has nothing to do with them are questioned by the banks about where their card is, where it is normally kept, whether they have written down their personal identification numbers, and how they have disguised them. A report is then made.

"We check the whole system was watertight and then decide whether to give a refund under guidelines from the general management. We settle with so many people because we are not prepared to accuse our customers of negligence. It could still be a fraud by someone else," said Lloyds, which is sending its five million customers who have cash cards a new brochure on how to safeguard their cards.

If Barclays cannot find any suspicious circumstances and the customer's card appears to have been used together with the personal identification number, the case is referred to the retail services division. If the matter is not resolved, the local manager may authorise an ex gratia payment.

Midland Bank said it did not have a lot of disputed withdrawals because its cards have different "check" digits to other cards.

It will always be possible to withdraw cash from a bank customer's account fraudulently, according to Hugh Jagger, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountancy firm.

Mr Jagger, who is an expert on electronic banking, argues that although "most so-called phantom withdrawals actually turn out to have been made by relatives or friends who have found the card and PIN number lying around at home, ... wherever you have an extremely clever person who is also extremely dishonest, there is always a possibility of fraud by someone totally unconnected with the cardholder."

Such was the case a few years ago when a gang was imprisoned for up to eight years for using ATMs to defraud bank customers of £25,000. They secretly recorded the PIN numbers as cardholders keyed them into the machines, plus account numbers left behind on unwanted receipts.

The data were then programmed on to blank cards bought in bulk from a supplier of security cards. These cards were used successfully to withdraw money fraudulently, leaving countless innocent

Security tighter but total safety not on the cards

accountholders trying to convince their banks that they had not withdrawn the money themselves.

Mr Jagger said that, although it was possible to create a virtually fraud-proof system, the costs would be so prohibitive it would not make commercial sense to do so. He added that, while some banks continually updated and improved their security systems, others took the view that security was already adequate, although "that is not to say that any is actually secure."

According to Jim Copson of IBM, manufacturers tend to come up with modifications to the system as soon as a new type of fraud appears, but some banks were slower than others to take advantage of the latest security developments. When a maintenance engineer allegedly defrauded Clydesdale bank customers earlier

this year by collecting card data and PIN numbers while servicing ATMs, the Banking Ombudsman recommended that banks install special barriers to prevent people from inserting cards whilst maintenance work was being carried out. Some banks have followed his advice, but others are still dragging their feet.

Some have also been slow to install new-style cash dispensers, devised to foil "super-glue thieves". These are people who apply a spot of glue to cash dispenser trays to trap cash as it is being dispensed to the customer. The cardholder's account is debited, and the thief collects the cash.

The depth and height at which a machine is set into a wall and how it is angled are now decided by sophisticated criteria that give ATM users greater privacy. Many mis-

chines also have "privacy" filters, which prevent people standing at the side from seeing the screen.

On the other hand, video cameras, which could easily settle arguments about who made a disputed withdrawal, tend to be fitted only on the more high-risk sites.

Mr Copson said: "Believe it or not, it is now very difficult to defraud banks via ATMs. We think we've blocked most of the major loopholes. Most frauds tend to be very petty. A major crime would be apparent to the banks very quickly. They would notice, for instance, if complaints about phantom withdrawals were centred round a certain area, or a certain day."

According to Mr Jagger, ATM fraud is still much more likely to be carried out by people working inside the bank. Mr Copson said that the biggest security risk relating to insiders was exposure to PIN numbers. Nowadays, they did not even appear in their unencoded form on the bank's own database, he said.

"That is why your bank cannot tell you what your number is if you forget it. They have to send you a new number instead."

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Caught by the loopholes in the wall

JACKIE Stannard is typical of many of the bank customers who dispute withdrawals from their accounts, according to the Consumers' Association. Since May, the receptionist, who works for an American bank in London, has been challenging five withdrawals totalling £350 made from her Abbey National account (Lindsay Cook writes).

She has witnesses that she was at her desk at the time of the withdrawals; all the staff at her bank are vetted for honesty; she lives alone; and, she maintains, she has never written down her personal identification number.

At the request of Abbey National, she has reported the incidents to the police and been involved in a lengthy correspondence. In August, she was told that the bank's complaints procedures had been exhausted and that she would not be reimbursed.

Abbey National said that its records showed that the money was withdrawn from a machine close to where she worked and the personal identification



Stannard: debits in dispute

number was input correctly at the first attempt.

Miss Stannard, aged 27, said: "I have never ever had any problems with the bank before. It they looked into my account, they would see that I never made such large withdrawals before this. They were always for £20 or £30. I am forced to do so now because I no longer

carry a card. They said it must have been a colleague. But they would have had to have borrowed the card, risk putting it back and take it again. I trust the people I work with."

The disputed withdrawals were discovered on May 17 when Miss Stannard tried to make a withdrawal from a Halifax Building Society Link machine, but was refused money. When she enquired she was told there was insufficient in her account.

Five withdrawals had been made she was told. The first three at one minute intervals on the afternoon of May 14 and two more on May 17.

During a series of letters, she asked the bank to investigate the transactions and has always maintained that her card was in her handbag under her desk when the withdrawals took place. The card was destroyed by the branch when the disputed withdrawals were reported.

This week, Abbey National agreed to reopen the case after being contacted by Weekend Money.

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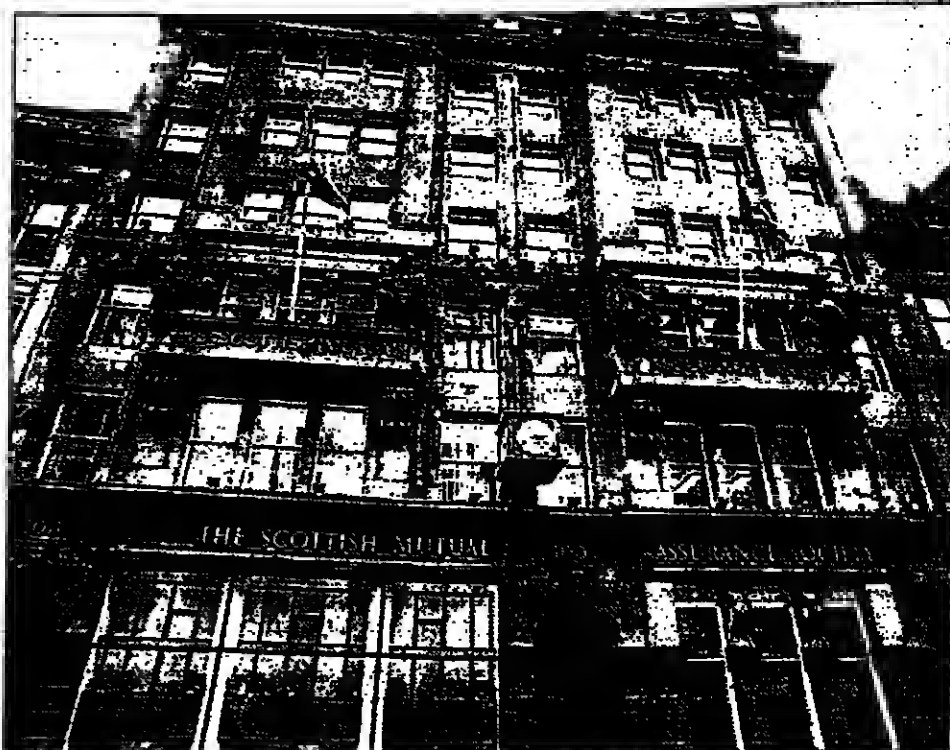
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Hundreds may miss out on the takeover bonus

Scottish Mutual policyholders are voting on whether the life company should merge with Abbey National. Lindsay Cook looks at the winners and losers



Changes: Scottish Mutual, founded in 1883, has its principal office in Glasgow

HUNDREDS of Scottish Mutual policyholders may miss out on a bonus worth thousands of pounds when the life company is taken over by Abbey National next year.

The possible losers are people who have with-profits life policies or pensions that will mature between now and the end of the year. Although they are likely to be among the 167,000 policyholders to qualify for a vote on whether the takeover should proceed, they will not get the bonus unless they extend their policies.

In some cases this will not be possible because their retirement date is written into the contract. Others may be able to defer retirement into January.

Endowment policies can be extended by five years in some cases, but this is not always straightforward.

Charles Thomson, appointed actuary and general manager, said that these policyholders would have to decide whether the benefit of receiving their payout later this year outweighed the bonus and having to postpone receipt of payment for five years.

The special bonus, which will account for £70 million of the £285 million Abbey National is to pay for Scottish Mutual, works out at 4 per cent of the sum assured on with-profits and pension policies. In addition, the life policies will receive 6 per cent of the bonuses and the pension plans 8 per cent of the bonuses. Customers with unit-linked policies will not receive the special bonus.

The bonus works out at £1,000 for a policyholder who took out a 25-year £30-a-month with-profits endowment policy in 1971 when he was 29. A £60-a-month pension plan taken out by a 34-year-old in 1986 will receive

£1,836. The bonus for the same plan taken out five years earlier by someone of the same age, is more than £1,000 higher at £2,840. A £60-a-month pension could earn a bonus of £3,316 after 15 years and £4,702 over 19 years.

For the deal to go ahead, 75 per cent of the members who vote must be in favour of the takeover. Mr Thomson wants a substantial vote and said that if the cut-off date for postal votes, November 9, was approaching and only a few hundred policyholders had cast their votes, then the society would advertise to remind members to vote.

Specific details of the bonuses will not be issued to policyholders before the vote, although there is a telephone helpline on 041-221 7505 from 9am to 8pm on weekdays for people who want to check whether they qualify and how much they are likely to be compensated for the takeover.

Policyholders have been told this week in a 64-page transfer document that their future annual bonuses are safeguarded for four years after the proposed takeover at current levels unless there are adverse market conditions. This would be the normal practice, with or without the takeover.

Scottish Mutual makes it

plain to policyholders that the costs of attracting new business since the introduction of the Financial Services Act have been rising and that, if it were to stay independent, only a slow rate of growth could be expected. This would have an adverse effect on future bonuses.

Scottish Mutual rules out closure to new business as a solution to its problems. Mr Thomson said that a closed fund would have to increase its fixed interest securities from the current level of 40 per cent to 45 per cent. This would reduce the returns.

He estimated that the expense of maintaining contracts would be 10 per cent higher than if the society continued to write business. The cost of redundancies would also have to be taken into consideration.

Alex Shedden, the independent actuary, called in by Scottish Mutual to assess the offer said: "Simplistically, it could be said that this amount of start-off fund puts the with-profits policyholders in the same position as they would be in were the society to close to new business. No value is given, therefore, for the new business capacity of the existing organisation of the society."

Policyholders whose poli-

cies are worth less than £1,000, who bought Scottish Mutual policies at auction or who live outside the United Kingdom, will not have a vote, but will receive the bonus.

The 125,000 unit-linked policyholders have received a letter this week explaining that they do not qualify to vote, or for the bonus.

Abbey National shareholders do not have a say on the issue. Those with Friends Provident policies bought through Abbey National are unaffected. The policies will continue. Abbey National is setting up a new company with Scottish Mutual. After January 1993, the bank will offer endowment policies only from this company, Abbey National Life. Performance tables would suggest the investment returns are likely to be lower than those offered by Friends Provident.

A maturing 25-year, £30-a-month endowment taken out by a 29-year-old would produce £53,017 this year with Scottish Mutual and £11,000 more with Friends Provident.

Abbey National and Scottish Mutual will have to beef up their fund management if they are to compete for endowment business. This could be a continuing advantage to existing Scottish Mutual policyholders.

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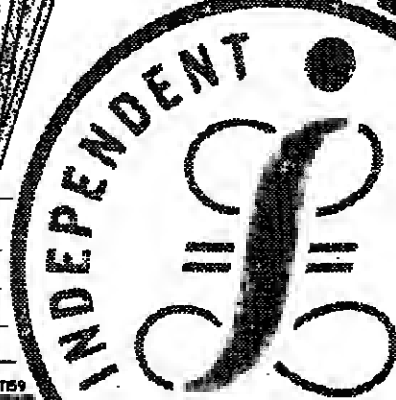
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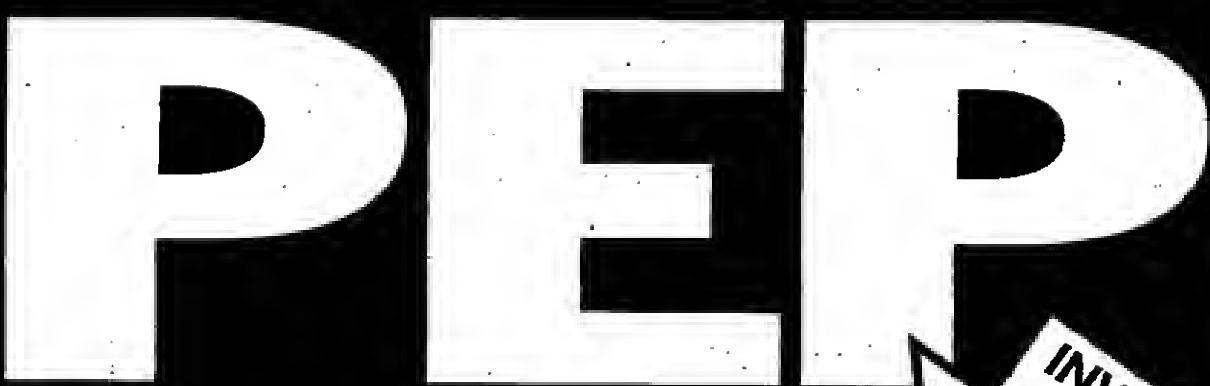
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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Borrowers locked in by high redemption costs

Lower interest levels spring penalty trap in fixed-rate loans

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A COUPLE who took out a fixed-rate mortgage for £61,000 in the spring of last year face a £4,600 penalty if they change lender.

When Neil and Deborah Germain bought their first home, mortgage interest rates were still around 14.5 per cent. So the fixed-rate deferred interest loan, offered by UCB Home Loans Corporation at 12.99 per cent for the first year and then 13.45 per cent over the next four years, seemed attractive. It also allowed the couple to defer some of the interest in the early years.

Since then, interest rates have fallen steadily. The couple are expecting their first child and are looking at ways of reducing their outgoings. But the UCB penalty means they are locked into the loan and cannot afford to re-mortgage to reduce their monthly payments by £140 a month.

Mr Germain, aged 25, applied for the loan on their Basingstoke, Hampshire, home through a mortgage broker. "I did not realise how much the redemption penalty could be until I asked what it would cost to change lenders. I expected we would have to pay about two to three months' interest," said Mr Germain, who is a supermarket manager.

He admits that the terms and conditions given to him when he took out the loan gave details of how the penalty would operate. They stated that, for repayment within the five years, there would be additional interest equal to 0.42p per £1,000 of the balance for each 0.5 per cent per annum by which the fixed rate differed from the current rate offered from UCB for each month of the unexpired period of the fixed rate.

The difference between the Germain's fixed rate and the current rate is 2 per cent, so the couple would have to pay £1.68 for each £1,000 of the loan for 43 months. The company estimated this would be £4,640.48.

Richard Shaw, marketing

director of UCB, said: "We have had to borrow the money and no one wants to make a loss. If we have to reissue the loan, we have to set it at the prevailing rate. We have many people who took out loans at 9.5 per cent over five years and are just completing their terms and are very happy."

He continued: "The prevail-

He added that there had to be a 0.5 per cent difference for the penalty to be triggered. Because of this, it was possible when rates fell for people to redeem their mortgages without paying a penalty. The company would also transfer mortgages to new properties, he said.

Mr Shaw said the company had an explanatory leaflet available on request.

The couple have looked at the possibility of getting a variable-rate mortgage, but their home is worth £65,000 and they would need to borrow £69,500 to clear the mortgage and the penalty payment.

"I have no choice but to sit it out. I cannot afford to take out a bank loan to pay the penalty. We've been caught fair enough and I want to warn other people to work out what the penalty might mean for them."

Most mortgage lenders express the early redemption penalty as months of interest. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society closed its fixed-rate mortgage over five years at 10.2 per cent to new applicants on Monday. Borrowers are warned that the early redemption penalty is six months' interest for those who do not take out another C&G loan. This is the first five-year guaranteed rate the society has offered. More than £100 million has been taken up in two weeks, although it has the highest redemption penalty imposed by the society. This may be reduced as the term gets under way so that people selling up in year five do not feel unduly penalised.

TSB has offered five-year fixed-rate mortgages since 1987 and charges redemption penalties of three months' interest. The first fixed-rate was set at 9.9 per cent, and to date only 7 per cent of borrowers have redeemed their loans. And most of these people have managed to escape the penalty by taking out another mortgage with the TSB.



No choice but to sit it out: Deborah and Neil Germain

ing rate was a good bit higher when the mortgage was taken out and the borrower was looking for cash flow. Unfortunately for him the rates have come down since then. You've got to get a crystal ball out to find out what is happening to the rates. Our rate of redemption is no worse than anyone else's."

mortgages since 1987 and

charges redemption penalties

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TSB.

Tax for few leaves the rest in peace

WITH inheritance tax apparently set to become an election issue, a report was published this week pointing out that the vast majority of people leave estates below the threshold for this tax (Lindsay Cook writes).

The study, by Chris Hannett of Nuffield College, Oxford, and Professor Peter Williams of the University of Wales, estimates the value of housing left in estates last year to be £9 billion - an average of £60,000 per estate. Even by the year 2025, when twice as many properties will be inherited, it estimates that the vast majority of estates will still fall below the current £140,000 starting point for the tax.

This calculation assumes that property prices will not rise by more than 5 per cent a year over the next 34 years.

The value of housing left in estates rose from £465 million in 1968-9 to £5.4 billion in 1986-7. Most of this rise was caused by house price inflation, as the number of estates containing houses and flats increased by only 20 per cent from 125,000 a year to 150,000 a year.

The report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, predicts that the number of houses inherited will double by 2025 because of the increase of owner occupation over recent years.

The pattern of inheritance is uneven, with the over-50s accounting for 63 per cent of beneficiaries and those in the professional and managerial jobs most likely to benefit from inherited house property. About 75 per cent of the properties were sold immediately and the proceeds were invested by almost half of the beneficiaries. Building societies were the largest single recipients of the money.

Investment groups want to alter that pattern. The Unit Trust Association is trying to persuade solicitors, who are very influential as to where money is invested, of the value of equity investment. Of

those who invested the money, the survey of 10,650 people showed that most subsequently spent the inheritance on general consumption. This left very little for investment in businesses.

It showed that 1,326 of the households questioned contained one or more members who had inherited house property or proceeds at some time in their lives.

The authors say that the level of housing inheritance will also be influenced by the number of elderly people borrowing against the value of their homes. "Schemes for extracting equity may also increase. Housing equity can either be used in life or bequeathed, but not both."

The Inland Revenue leaflet "What Happens When Someone Dies" has been revised and is available from all tax offices and enquiry centres. It explains that debts such as fuel bills or mortgage payments owing at the time of death can be deducted from the estate total to reduce the tax bill.

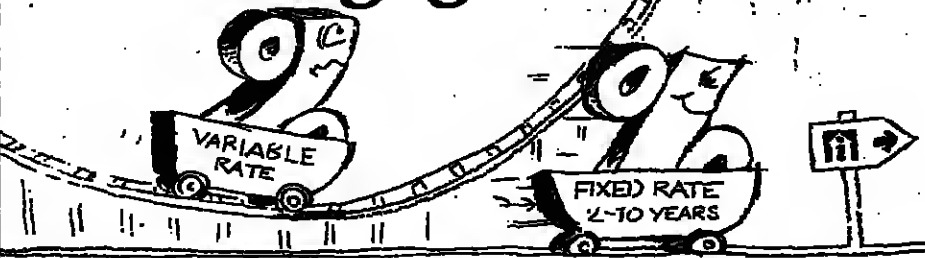
Later this month, the Law Society is to launch a campaign to encourage people to make a will. This can save inheritance tax if estates are above the £140,000 threshold.

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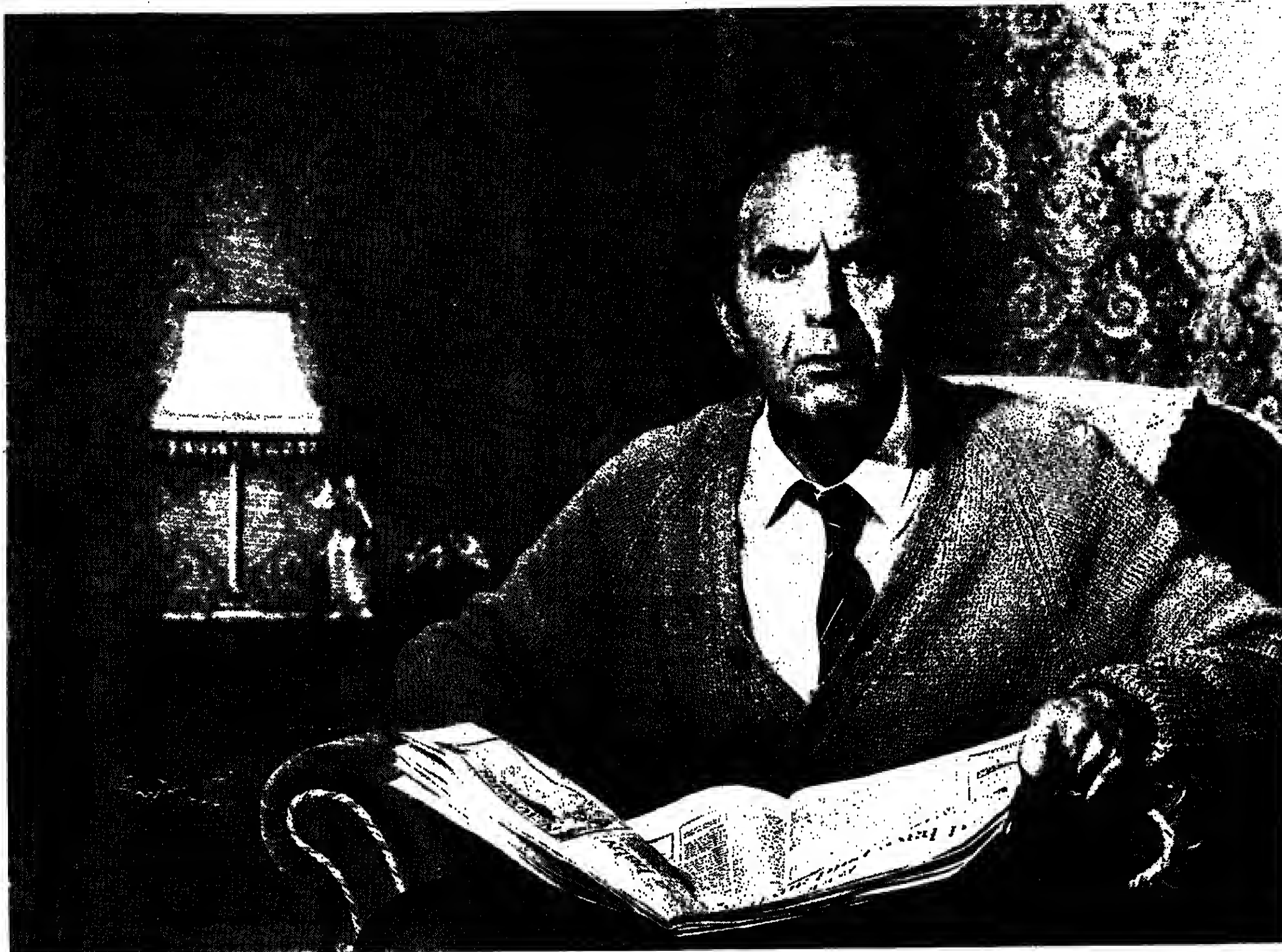
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Unit trusts open doors for savers

By HAZEL SPINK

EIGHT cuts in base rates over the past year may have been good news for borrowers but many savers have seen dramatic falls in the interest rates paid on bank and building society accounts.

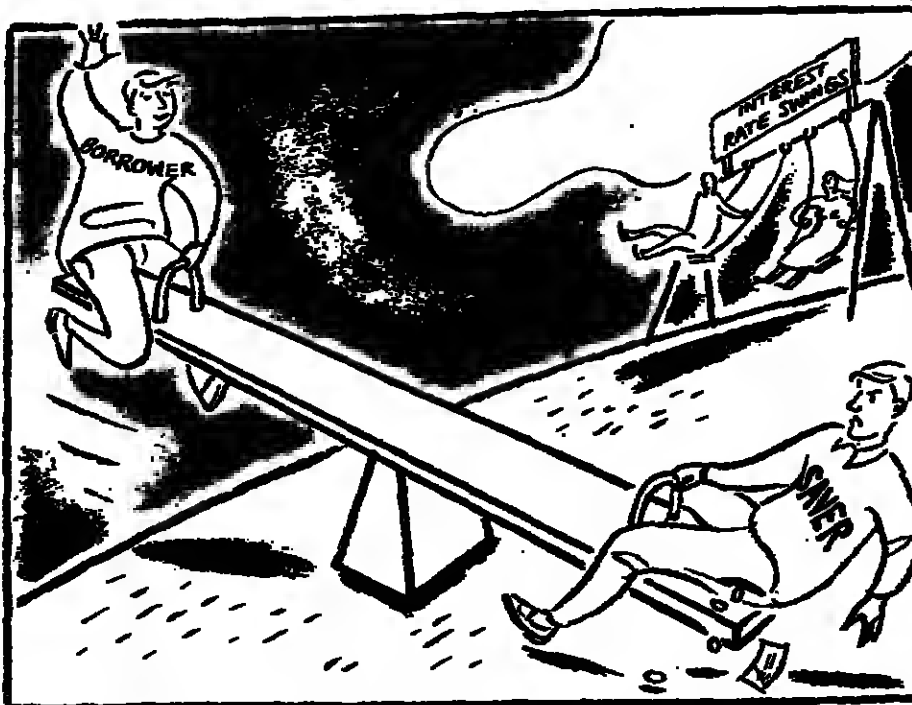
Returns from these accounts have fallen by as much as 25 per cent this year. Investors who rely heavily on the interest from savings may be wondering whether they should be investing in an equity-based product, such as a unit trust or investment trust.

Over the medium to long term, equities have performed better, in terms of both income and capital growth, than deposits. There are also disadvantages.

Income from a building society fluctuates in line with base rates. Individual building societies find it difficult to provide an average rate over the longer term because many of their accounts have not run for very long.

According to the Central Statistical Office, a £1,000 investment in an average building society account would have paid £148 a year in 1980, £124 in 1986 and £142 in 1990. If interest is withdrawn, there will be no capital appreciation. Both income and capital are subject to erosion by inflation.

According to figures from the Unit Trust Association (UTA), the average UK equity income fund with £1,000 in-



PAULA YOUNG

vested would have paid £62 a year in 1982, rising each year to £158 a year in 1991.

Income from equity investment rises when the interest from a building society account remains static because the income paid to unit trust investors is paid out of the profits earned by the companies the unit trust has invested in. The combination of growth in the economy and

inflation means that company profits and dividends generally rise.

In addition to rising income, a unit trust or investment trust offers potential capital appreciation. UTA figures show that during a ten-year period, starting in 1981, a £1,000 investment in an income unit trust would have risen to £3,472 whereas a building society account would

have shown no capital growth.

Ken Emery, a director of Save & Prosper, said: "Over the last 50 or 60 years there have been relatively few periods when there have been real returns on cash investments. The last few years have been something of an anomaly."

Tim Miller, group marketing director at M&G, said: "The main advantage of a unit trust is that income should rise faster than the retail prices index. If an investor is looking for an alternative to a building society, a unit trust provides a spread of investment, minimising risk."

A £1,000 investment in the M&G Dividend Fund in 1970 would have grown to £5,972 in 1990. The income from the fund would have risen from £40 to £452. A comparable building society account would have paid £49 in 1970 but only £105 in 1990.

Bridget Cleverly, head of marketing at Schroder Unit

Lautro changes training rules

By LIZ DOLAN

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) has come up with proposals for a new training scheme aimed at getting life assurance sales staff to polish up their act. Lautro claims that the proposals will set "a common threshold standard of competence" for its 190,000 members.

All new recruits, after December 1992, must show, in a formal test, that they have a basic knowledge of the rules governing their industry before they are let loose on clients. They must then be supervised by a more experienced colleague, who will oversee their work and show them, by example, how it is done. They must refer back to their supervisor before completing a sale.

The employer will notify Lautro when the trainee is considered to have reached the required standard. The initial training period is expected to be about six months. Lautro calculates that it will take at least two-and-a-half years to visit all its members to oversee the establishment of the initial scheme.

A copy of the proposals was sent this week to all members for comments. The scheme will be launched next April. Members will then have until the following January to comply with its requirements. During that period, they will have to formally assess the competence of all existing sales staff.

No Lautro member will be allowed to practise after December 1992 without having first satisfied the requirements of the training and competence scheme.

Comment, page 27



THE VIEW FROM SAVE & PROSPER

UNITED KINGDOM

Economy coming out of recession - buy smaller companies.

Consumer confidence needs to be boosted by further interest rate cuts. Scope for this may be provided with inflation now close to 4%.

Increase in corporate activity reflects the fact that industrialists believe the UK stock market currently offers good value.

The Conservative Party should improve in the opinion polls following their Conference, as the Labour party did during theirs.

Smaller companies outperformed large by 6.6% during September. We expect this outperformance to continue.

UNITED STATES

Market awaiting signs of strength of economic recovery - buy on weakness.

The market, already anticipating a strong improvement in corporate profits in 1992, is likely to be volatile through the current reporting season.

The bond market has been strong reflecting low inflation and a supportive Federal Reserve policy stance.

Whilst the manufacturing side of the economy has picked up, the service sector remains weak, giving the Fed scope to ease rates further.

For the market to move higher signs of stronger economic data are required which we expect to be evident in the fourth quarter.

JAPAN

Sustained market rise - buy.

The bond market continues to rally on clear signs of economic slowdown.

The Bank of Japan's decision to reduce the banks' reserve requirement should help to ease the current credit squeeze.

Japanese institutions and individuals are now returning to the equity market.

PACIFIC REGION

Good opportunities in certain markets.

Hong Kong's market has risen to an all-time high and has been fuelled by a renewed interest in the residential property market and improved consumer confidence. Retail sector and tourism show signs of recovery.

Singapore market has been dragged down by poor sentiment in Malaysia, prompted by rising interest rates.

In Australia the economy is finally showing some signs of recovery. Further interest rate reductions are possible.

A liquidity easing in Thailand is positive for the market. Political uncertainty however persists in the short term.

EUROPE

Long term, markets offer good value.

Whilst the outlook for 1992 remains promising, short term uncertainties (notably German inflation and interest rates) remain.

High wage inflation in Germany continues to hamper the possibility of rate cuts.

Company earnings next year should be good, but much is dependent on the strength of US economic recovery.

When investor interest returns it is likely to be the larger companies which will benefit first, as these are more exposed to the pick up in overseas economies.

COMMODITIES

Base metals outperform during economic recovery - buy.

Metal stockpiles are relatively low; so, when the economic recovery gets into full swing, prices should quickly respond to the rise in demand.

Gold is expected to trade in a band between US\$350 and US\$400 until the end of 1991.

The oil price is expected to strengthen during the fourth quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992 as demand picks up.

CURRENT RECOMMENDED SAVE & PROSPER FUNDS

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UNITED STATES. American Smaller Companies Fund for continuing outperformance from smaller companies.

JAPAN. Japan Growth Fund for continued outperformance from larger companies.

PACIFIC REGION. Eastern Discovery Fund for its current exposure to the Australian and Japanese markets.

EUROPE. European Growth Fund for its high exposure to large companies.

COMMODITIES. Commodity Share Fund for its current high exposure to quality mining shares.

This view of world investment markets contains the opinions of Save & Prosper at the time of going to press. It is intended as an information service for investors. If you would like our latest fact sheet about Save & Prosper's current views on the world's major stock markets or if you require further information on any of the funds mentioned above, just ring 0800 282 101, 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., seven days a week, or talk to your financial adviser.

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BRIEFINGS

A NEW endowment mortgage from Scottish Amicable and NatWest Home Loans allows premiums to be reduced to cover temporary reductions in household income. Under the plan, monthly mortgage interest premiums may be reduced by up to 25 per cent for a maximum of five years, with

a concurrent near-50 per cent reduction in low-cost endowment premiums over the same period. These options are available from the end of the third year to meet a variety of circumstances, including starting a family, redundancy, career changes, a return to education, sickness or accident.

First-time buyers receive a 0.75 per cent discount on interest rates in the first year.

The Allied Dunbar Investment and Savings Guide 1991-2 caters both for people who want to make short-term profits and for those who are seeking long-term security. The guide, published by Longman, costs £16.99.

The Royal Bank of Scotland is offering first-time homebuyers a 2 per cent discount for the first year of their mortgage if they borrow more than £50,000. Other new borrowers receive a 1 per cent discount on the same basis. Neither category is allowed to borrow more than 95 per cent of the value of the property.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies has published a booklet for people who want to know how investment trusts work and how to buy and sell shares in them. *Buying Shares in Investment Trust Companies* is available, free, from the AITC, Park House (6th Floor), 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ; tel: 071-588 5347.

A mortgage package that claims to be totally flexible, portable and transferable has been launched by Prosperity, the financial services company based in Kent.

Midland Bank has launched a guaranteed capital bond that will track the FT-SE 100 index over five years, but promises to repay the original investment in full if the index has fallen at the end of the period. The bond guarantees a return of 95 per cent of the original investment plus any bonuses, increased by however much the FT-SE 100 index has grown over the five years, or the original investment plus bonuses in full, whichever is the greater. It is available until November 5, or earlier if fully subscribed. The policy starts to operate on November 18.

Eagle Star is offering a 1 per cent discount on the published offer price of its UK High Income and UK Growth funds. The offer lasts until the end of this month.

A tax-free investment trust personal equity plan is available from Foreign & Colonial. The first £1,500 of the annual £5,000 PEP allowance is invested in one of eight F&C investment trusts. The rest is invested in the F&C Blue Chip managed portfolio of well-known FT-SE 100 stocks. There are lump sum and regular savings scheme options, the minimum lump sum being £1,500 and the minimum monthly investment £100. Initial charges are £58.75 for lump sums and £5.88 a month for regular savings. There is a £60 annual charge. Dealing costs are 0.2 per cent, plus 0.5 per cent stamp duty on purchase.

Scarborough Building Society's new instant access savings account pays a 0.75 per cent net bonus on accounts whose savers have made a maximum of six withdrawals during the society's financial year.

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You will not be able to start an M&G PEP 1991/1992 via M&G Income Investment Trust P.L.C. if your application form arrives after 10.00am on 17th October 1991.

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and we will post you details including application forms by 1st class post. You can phone the above number this weekend between 10.00am and 5.00pm and on Monday between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

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[illegible][illegible]

SUGAR (C&B)		LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICES-LOR) - London 5.00pm	
C Canebebe		At the end of a choppy week prices showed little change.	
Dec - 162.4 BHD		CRUDE OILS (Brentford FOB)	
Nov - 161.5 BHD		Brent Physical 22.10	
May - 184.1-83.0		Sweet 16 day (Oct) 22.10	
Oct - 186.5-83.0		Sweet 16 day (Nov) 22.10	
Oct - 186.5-83.0		W Texas Intermediate (Nov) 22.00	
		W Texas Intermediate (Dec) 22.00	
Vol: 1158			
		PRODUCTS (Brentford S&T)	
FUTURES		Spot CR NW Europe (prompt delivery)	
Dec - 127.00		Dec - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Nov - 127.00		Jan - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Feb - 128.00		Mar - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Mar - 128.00		Apr - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Apr - 128.00		May - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
May - 128.00		Jun - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Jun - 128.00		Jul - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Jul - 128.00		Aug - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Aug - 128.00		Sep - 22.22 (-)	Offer: 235 (Nov)
Vol: 816			
		SPR FINEST	
Volume: 184		Nov - 215.50-15.25	Apr - 198.75-89.50
Close: 138.0		Dec - 215.50-15.25	May - 198.75-89.50
Open: 138.0		Jan - 215.50-15.25	Jun - 198.75-89.50
High: 142.5		Feb - 215.50-15.25	Jul - 198.75-89.50
Low: 138.0			Vol: 4840
		BRANT	
		Oct - 22.05-22.18	Dec - 21.50-21.58
		Nov - 21.40-21.50	Vol: 21
		SEAFREIGHT	
		High: 1875 Low: 1851	
		Oct 91	1875 1750
		Nov 91	1750 1725
		Dec 91	1725 1725
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هكذا من اجل

By JENNY MACARTHUR

Whitaker started riding the Belgian-bred mare, owned by Armand Tyteca, 18 months ago. Since then they have won the Hamburg grand prix and

Wembley knees-up: Harvey Smith surmounts an obstacle yesterday on Brook St Picnic

potential when finishing second to Wednesday's Olympic Star Spotters competition. Whitaker, who already has Gammoo and Grannusch as possible Olympic rides, thinks Hurricane may be of the same calibre. "I know he's young but he has the right attitude and lots of ability." He also has the right pedigree. He is related to Quito de Baussey.

Earlier yesterday, Paul Barker, the son of the former Olympic show jumper, David Barker, created a Wembley record when he filled the first three places in the Senator junior foxhunter championship.

RESULTS: Wembley Stakes: 1, Countryman (D Broome), 0 in 28.29sec; 2, Ophebeus Poly Royal (D Becker, Ger), 0 in 28.98 s; 3, Martin Rosso (P Le Jaune, Belg), 0 in 30.03. Woodhouse International Accumulator: 1, Henderson Fonds (J Whitaker), 38.79; 2, Henderson My Messieur (M Whitaker), 39.81; 3, Brook Street Picnic (H Smith), 42.54. DHL Succession (Thursday) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Bockelo — The standard of dressage at international three-day events has risen so much that at the Dutch championship event here, less than two per cent separate the leading four teams at the end of two days of dressage (Findlay Davidson writes). The French, as so often, lead from the United States while Virginia Leng, of Britain, heads the individual standings.

LEADERS (after dressage) Team: 1 France, 112.05, 2 US, 113.10, equal 3, GB and Netherlands, 113.70, 5, Germany, 120.90, 6, Belgium, 128.55 Individual: 1, Weller, Chit Chit (V Leng, GB), 34.35pens; 2, Elektra Spiritus (A Hermann, Sw), 35.25, 3, Rodasio (J-Y Touzart, Fr), 35.55

the listed Prix du Ranelagh on the same card.

□ The recession took a further toll on the racing industry yesterday when Lamhouna Coachbuilders Ltd, a major horsebox manufacturer, went into liquidation.

[illegible]

3.05 (1m) 1. CHIPAYA (G Duffield, 12-1); 2. Ummhysate (W Carson, 9-2) *ft-fav*; 3. Melpomene (A Munro, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 *ft-fav* Able Susan, Collide, 7 Lovedoch (5th), 8 Silver Brink (4th), 12 Souk, 14 Fairy Flax (6th), 20 Zonda, 10 ran, 2, 1½, hcl, sh hcl, 2, J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Totals: £125.50; £3.30; £1.80, £3.90. DF: £19.80. CSF: CSB 22, 1mgn 44, 38nc.

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

With Generous possibly susceptible to travelling, Newmarket rather than Churchill Downs is the likely venue for his reappearance. Salman would love a rematch with Suave Dancer. "If he is not in the race,



**Reid: booked to ride
Wragg's two hopefuls**

years including Dead Certain which he purchased for 5,800 gns. He paid a similar sum for Pure Formality, who started coming into season on Thursday last night but still won the Duke Of Edinburgh Stakes.

Fairy Fable, fourth to Twasfa, in the group one Moyglare Stud Stakes, is entitled to star favourite for the Vincent O'Brien-Lester Piggott team.

MANDARIN

2.10 Invertiel. 2.40 Stay Awake
3.40 Moment Of Truth. 4.10 C
4.40 Ambuscade.

THUNDERER

2.10 Invertiel. 2.40 Stay Awake
Lev. 3.40 Moment Of Truth.

In the Goffs Fillies' Challenge Race the prize could be kept a

3.10 WASH
(£2,883; 2m) (7)

3 12- MR W
4 441- SIR P
5 22-2 SOUTH
6 05-1 PERSU
7 7/5 DOUBT

clash in the group two Blandford Stakes, but could meet the match in the consistent Topanora, who was staying on when fourth at Leopardstown in the subsequent Arc winner Slave Dancer.

UNDERER HANDICAP HURDLE
MAN 3F (D.G.S.) L Codd 5-11-10 Mr P Fertis
TION OF DEGREE 134F (D.G.S.) N Tinker 5-11-5

WOODCOCK 325 (D.F.G) Mrs G Rowley 6-10-6
P NW
ETER LELY 186 (D.F.S) M Hammond 4-10-5
J Callaghan 1
ER'S HILL 7 (D.G) T Craig 4-10-4
C Hawtins
IASIVE 17 (D.G.S) Miss L Parrott 4-10-2 M Day
FLESS 828 C Alexander 9-10-0 S Tarr
4 September 192 Mr Woodcock 81 Six day

JOCKEYS: M. Lynch, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%, D. Tagg, 3 from 28, 10.7% (Only qualifiers)

4 P-21 AUTONOMOUS 57 (F) C Allen 8-10-10 Judy Davies (F)
5 14-2 KATHY COOK 6 (C&F) R Hollenhead 8-10-8 O Bridgman (F)
6 4436 ISOBAR 9 (F) Al Chapman 5-10-0 S Wynne (F)
7-4 Autonomes, 5-2 The Lighter Side, 4-1 Mutants, 5-1 First Lord
10-1 Kathy Cook, 18-1 Isobar. W Worthington

790

The DUNHILL CUP
St. Andrews 10-13 October 1991

SPONSORED BY ALFRED DUNHILL
FASHION AND ACCESSORIES SINCE 1883

5-6 lev. 12 ran. 1/2, 10L M Hammond. Total: \$7.20 \$2.10. \$1.10. \$3.50. OF: \$8.80. CSF: \$38.67. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.
Placepot: \$3.00.

JOCKEYS: M. Lynch, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%, D. Tagg, 3 from 28, 10.7% (Only qualifiers)

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7-4 Autonomes, 5-2 The Lighter Side, 4-1 Mutants, 5-1 First Lord
10-1 Kathy Cook, 18-1 Isobar. W Worthington

790

A chance for two to watch the final



THE Times today teams with Johnson Matthey to present a competition with a special prize: a pair of tickets for the Rugby World Cup final at Twickenham on November 2. Also, for each of the five runners-up, there will be a solid silver "official supporters medal".

Johnson Matthey has been selected to mint the medals for the World Cup, including winners' medals in platinum, which has been designated as the metal of the event.

The silver medals are being marketed as mementoes of rugby union's greatest month. For further information about them, telephone 01 262 6265, Monday to Friday.

To enter the competition, study the questions below, write your answers on the entry form and send it (to arrive by October 21) to: Johnson Matthey competition, Sports Department, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct entry drawn from all those received by October 21. The runners-up will be the senders of the next five correct entries opened.

THE QUESTIONS

- Which country taking part in the 1991 World Cup final stages did not play in the inaugural tournament?
- Against whom did Italy record their only win in the 1987 World Cup?



- Name the French player, above, who set an individual points-scoring record of 30 during the 1987 tournament?
- Which country is seeded eighth in the 1991 World Cup?
- Which Italian club does David Campese play for?

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

ANSWERS

1. Italy
2. Argentina
3. France
4. Scotland
5. Benetton

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
Employees (and their relatives) of Johnson Matthey and its agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

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Wales must call on character

By GERALD DAVIES

ELSEWHERE they already know their fate in the Rugby World Cup. Not in Pool 3, though. But then this group was always going to be trouble. And, even today, its mind will not be made up. So, which teams will go forward to the quarter-finals will not be resolved when Wales meet Australia at Cardiff Arms Park this afternoon.

Only the result of the match between Argentina and Western Samoa at Pontypridd tomorrow will settle the issue. Everything will be clear if both Australia and Western Samoa win, but a try count will be necessary if there is any deviation from this.

The lifeline which the victory against Argentina gave Wales is thin. But this is better than none at all. These, for goodness' sake, are difficult times.

The Welsh performance on Wednesday was heroic of its kind, even if vulnerable. Considering the desperate depths from which they were emerging and the overwhelming emptiness they must have felt after defeat by Western Samoa last Sunday, victory was an extraordinary blessing. Why, at this stage, should Wales ask for more — or anybody else, for that matter, demand more of them?

There was an aptness that Wales, having given so much to the game in the past and recently having eaten enough bread of humiliation, should for the moment suffer no more. To celebrate the performance, however briefly, might not have been worthy of a glass of vintage, so familiar were the errors, but a draught went down sweetly enough.

If the match did not rage away as some of us would have liked, the brief, intense roar of triumph and relief which greeted Arnold's try on Wednesday was a jubilant explosion of a deep-seated yearning for the good things. Among the burly-burly, I hope the players heard it.

As a result of constant failure, the criticism becomes unbearable and the players begin to see the spectre of

THE MATHEMATICS OF POOL 3

FORM indicates that Australia (by beating Wales today) and Western Samoa (by beating Argentina tomorrow) will qualify for the quarter-finals from Pool 3. Australia would go through as the Pool 3 winners (to play the Pool 2 runners-up, Scotland or Ireland, in Dublin a week tomorrow), and Western Samoa, as Pool 3 runners-up, would play the Pool 2 winners, Scotland or Ireland, at Murrayfield next Saturday.

But... if Wales beat Australia today, they could be locked in a three-way tie at the top of Pool 2 with Argentina and Western Samoa (if they beat Argentina tomorrow); each team would have seven points (two wins and one defeat). The positions would then be decided on results between the three countries; that would still leave them level, Western Samoa having beaten Wales, Wales having beaten Australia, and Australia having beaten Western Samoa. The next



Survival instinct: the skill and determination shown by Lewis is something Wales need throughout their team

enemies everywhere. They need reassurance. Those rare seconds of indulgence from the crowd should have given it to them.

Today, Wales, as they face the grim-visaged men opposite, must grit their teeth once again. For they have yet to prove there is as much skill as character in the team. No native genius informs this Welsh side; they have too few outstanding players. Robert Jones certainly is one; Emyr Lewis is a player growing into his place, as is Webster when he is less impulsive. Evans

and Emyr can be relied upon to do their stuff on the wing. Others need to persuade Australia there is danger in their eyes, too.

The only changes from Wednesday's game is that Tony Clement is restored to full back and Mike Rayer is now replacement instead of Steve Ford.

There is nothing evenly balanced about this afternoon's encounter; nobody foresees Australia's apple-cart being overturned. Australia themselves say as much. There is no modesty here.

Australia do not go in for much wishful thinking. They did, once, some years ago, when rugby mattered less. Nowadays, they are practical men of the rugby world. And they showed this in their power and discipline in grim conditions at Pontypool Park.

They have showed it, too, in selecting Eales in the second row and moving Ofahengaui to the No. 8 position. Eales is a fine player but one still in the making and, as should be expected of one so young, he has not the authority just yet for the middle of the back row.

They have played only fitfully so far, the summer's swaggers yet to appear. They promise it will be back.

Murrayfield teams haunted by green and gold spectre

By BRYAN STILES

THE presence of a green and gold spectre can be felt in the clammy fog that hangs over Murrayfield. It carries the chill that whoever loses the Pool 2 match between Scotland and Ireland there this afternoon will almost certainly have to play the Australians in the quarter-finals.

The winners will have the far less daunting task of meeting the runners-up in Australia's pool. It is a prospect that will lend an even greater urgency to the clash between these old adversaries. At last the real action is about to commence in Pool 2.

Neither was extended as they extinguished the game challenges of Japan and Zimbabwe. These matches simply served to get players battle-hardened, patterns of play established and accustom the medical staff to dealing with heavy bruising, an inevitable and painful result of crossing swords with the Japanese.

As ever at this level, the forwards and the goalkeepers hold the keys to success. But

what should be equally absorbing is the clash between the two sets of half backs, or "units of defence". In rugby, half backs gain in popularity, Chalmers and Armstrong, of Scotland, a well-established and match-winning pairing that has served the British Lions; in contrast the Ireland combination of Keyes and Saunders has been matched up only in the past few weeks.

Keyes won his first cap five years ago then had to wait until last week before winning his second at the age of 30. It was the stuff of dreams. After wandering the wilderness for so long he was recalled against Zimbabwe and calmly set an Irish record by scoring 23 points. He followed that with 16 against the Japanese.

Keyes has struck up a promising partnership with Saunders and both are likely to test the Scottish defence with their tactical kicking. Their Scottish counterparts have a distinct advantage with their greater experience and Armstrong has been extremely adept at fashion-

ing tricks with his back row.

Lenihan wins his fifth cap for Ireland and brings a wealth of experience to the pack. France, his second-row partner, is Ireland's finest but it is an area where Scotland will be keen to profit with Gray, Weir and Jeffrey.

The Scottish forwards seem confident that their raw-boned changes are going to carry the day and that they will be able to put Ireland under extreme pressure, particularly in the last quarter.

But Claran Fitzgerald, the Ireland coach, who rebuilt the side last January, says that players are more street-wise now and they are clearly full of confidence after just failing to beat Scotland on their last visit seven months ago.

In George Horne, they have the most exciting wing in the home countries and, with Mullin at Red at the touch of a finger, but still they had to know their place.

And I was initially dubious about ITV's ability to guide us safely through the Rugby World Cup. I dreaded nothing so concrete as, for example, an interview with Mrs Guinness in which she revealed Jerry's Bathroom Beauty Secrets, or a humorous little film in which the Old East Shepherds Chartered Surveyors XV performed the haka on their local.

The BBC would be quite capable of doing that sort of

CARDIFF TEAMS			
Wales		Australia	
A Clement	15	Full back	M C Roebuck
IC Evans	14	Right wing	R H Egerton
IS Gibbs	13	Right centre	J S Little
M R Hall	12	Left centre	T J Horan
A Emyr	11	Left wing	D I Campese
M G Ring	10	Stand off	M P Lynagh
R N Jones	9	Scrum half	P J Slattery
M Griffiths	1	Prop	A J Daly
G R Jenkins	2	Hooker	P N Kearns
L Delaney	3	Prop	E J A McKenzie
EW Lewis	6	Flanker	S P Poidevin
P Arnold	4	Lock	R J McCall
K Moseley	5	Lock	J A Eales
R Webster	7	Flanker	V Ofahengaui
P T Davies	8	No. 8	J S Miller

Referee: K Lawrence (New Zealand)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D W Evans (Cardiff), 17 A H Booth (Cardiff), 18 M A Rayer (Cardiff), 19 K Waters (Newbridge), 20 H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), 21 M A Morris (Neath).

MURRAYFIELD TEAMS			
Scotland		Ireland	
A G Hastings	15	Full back	J E Staples
A G Stanger	14	Right wing	S P Geoghegan
S Hastings	13	Right centre	B J Mullin
S R P Lineen	12	Left centre	D M Curtis
I Tukalo	11	Left wing	K D Crossan
C M Chalmers	10	Stand-off	R P Keyes
G Armstrong	9	Scrum half	R Saunders
A P Burnell	1	Prop	N J Poplewell
J Allan	2	Hooker	S J Smith
D M B Sole	3	Prop	D C Fitzgerald
J Jeffrey	6	Flanker	M Matthews
C A Gray	4	Lock	D G Lenihan
G W Weir	5	Lock	N P J Francis
F Calder	7	Flanker	G F Hamilton
D B White	8	No. 8	B F Robinson

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D W Evans (Cardiff), 17 A H Booth (Cardiff), 18 M A Rayer (Cardiff), 19 K Waters (Newbridge), 20 H Williams-Jones (South Wales Police), 21 M A Morris (Neath).

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New Zealand are ready to assert their authority

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEW Zealand will conclude fixtures in Pool 1 tomorrow on top, as they have been from the first day of this World Cup. It is inconceivable that they will not beat Italy at Welford Road, Leicester, and therefore go forward to a quarter-final in Lille against either Canada or France, whichever of those countries are runners-up in Pool 4.

The only previous fixture between the two countries was that which opened the 1987 tournament, when the All Blacks beat Italy 70-6. There has been no comparable difference in this World Cup yet, but New Zealand were mightily dissatisfied with their showing against the Americans on Tuesday and Italy may suffer the backlash.

Gianfranco Zanon, the Italian captain, has been dropped, so that Carlo Cechinato, who is taller, can be included at No. 8. Giancarlo Pivetta leads the side from hooker while the opposing captain, Gary Whetton, equals the New Zealand record of 55 appearances held by another second row forward, Colin Meads. Whetton is one of 12 Aucklanders in the New Zealand XV, which is believed to contain a record for players from one province.

NEW ZEALAND: T Wright, J Kruen, C Innes, W Little, V Tupaia, G Fox, J Hewson, M McDowell, S Soper, R Loe, A Whetton, G Whetton (captain), J Jones, M Carter, 2 Brooks. Replacements: S Phahlo, S McDonald, J Preston, P Henderson, A Eiki, G Dowd. ITALY: P Vaccaro, E Verhulst, F Geronzi, O Dominguez, Marcello Cuccini, M Berrini, L Francescato, Massimo Cuccini, G Pivetta (captain), F Pignatelli, A Bortolacci, R Favaro, C Zanon, M Sestini, C Cechinato. Replacements: O Talsio, S Bordon, P Petrosini, G Zanon, G Geronzi, C Geronzi, K Fitzgerald (Australia).

W Samoa v Argentina

WESTERN Samoa have made four changes for their vital Pool 3 match against Argentina at Pontypridd on Sunday. Tagaloa, who came on as a replacement against Australia on Wednesday, retains his place on the wing at the expense of

Fiame, who scored a try in the opener against Wales, returns to the flank and Lam returns at No. 8.

Percini, the No. 8 against Australia, moves to the flank. Kaleopa and Paramore are dropped, as is the prop, Alataloa, who is replaced by Sio.

The Samoans, arguably the most illustrious side in the tournament to date, clearly deserve to reach the last eight and should do so against a side which greatly disappointed in losing to Wales last Wednesday night.

Wales may not be the only country this weekend fearful of Western Samoa's power and aggression: Scotland or Ireland whom they would meet in the quarter-final next weekend may have equal respect for the South Pacific islanders.

ARGENTINA: G Anguita, M Teran, E Laborde, M Garcia Simon, O Cuesta Salas, L Arzou, G Camarero, O Cusi, M Bosch, F Hernandez, P Suarez, P Spector, Sarmiento, F Alvarez, P Garzon (captain).

WORLD CUP PROGRAMME

Pool 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	0	1	85	33	7
New Zealand	2	2	0	1	54	18	6
Italy	1	0	1	3	48	45	3
US	3	0	0	3	24	113	3

RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 16; Italy 30, United States 8; England 48, Italy 37, United States 9.

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: New Zealand v Italy (Leicester, 3pm).

Pool 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	98	21	6
Ireland	2	2	0	0	87	27	6
Japan	2	0	0	2	25	79	2
Zimbabwe	2	0	0	2	23	106	2

RESULTS: Scotland 47, Japan 12; Ireland 55, Zimbabwe 11; Ireland 32, Japan 16; Scotland 51, Zimbabwe 12.

FIXTURES: Today: Scotland v Ireland (Murrayfield, 1.30pm). Oct 14: Zimbabwe v Japan (Belfast, 3pm).

Pool 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	2	2	0	0	41	22	6
Wales	2	1	0	1	29	24	4
W Samoa	2	1	0	1	19	22	4
Argentina	2	0	0	2	28	48	2

RESULTS: Australia 32, Argentina 19; Wales 13, Western Samoa 16; Australia 5, Western Samoa 3; Wales 16, Argentina 7.

FIXTURES: Today: Wales v Australia (Cardiff, 3.15pm). Tomorrow: Argentina v Western Samoa (Pontypridd, 1pm).

Pool 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	63	12	6
Canada	2	2	0	0	32	14	6
Fiji	2	0	0	2	12	48	2
Romania	2	0	0	2	14	49	2

RESULTS: France 30, Romania 3; Fiji 12, Canada 13; France 33, Fiji 5; Canada 19, Romania 11.

FIXTURES: Today: Fiji v Romania (Bordeaux, 7pm). Tomorrow: France v Canada (Agen, 4.45pm).

10 Teams in pool matches are awarded three points for a victory, two for a draw and, if defeated, one for fulfilling the fixture.

QUARTER-FINALS: Oct 18: Pool 2 winners v Pool 3 runners-up (Murrayfield, 1pm); Pool 4 winners v Pool 1 winners (Rugby, 3pm). Oct 20: Pool 3 winners v Pool 2 runners-up (Dublin, 1pm); Pool 1 winners v Pool 4 runners-up (Lille, 4pm).

SEMI-FINALS: Oct 28: Murrayfield winners v Paris winners (Rugby, 3pm). Oct 29: Dublin winners v Lille winners (Dublin, 2.30pm).

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: Oct 30: Cardiff, 2.30pm.

FINAL: Nov 2: Twickenham, 2.30pm.

12 Scotland lead the table for the Philips fair play award. They have conceded 14 penalties. They are followed by: Canada 16, Argentina 16, Australia and Zimbabwe 17 each.

Today: ITV 13.10-16.45 and Screen Sport 13.10-16.45. Scotland 3pm, Ireland 5pm, Wales 7pm, Argentina 9pm.

Tomorrow: ITV 12.40-14.40 and Screen Sport 12.40-14.40. Fiji v Romania, 12.45-14.45; Argentina v Western Samoa, 17.50-19.05 and Screen Sport 17.50-19.05.

Today: ITV 13.10-16.45 and Screen Sport 13.10-16.45. Scotland 3pm, Ireland 5pm, Wales 7pm, Argentina 9pm.

Tomorrow: ITV 12.40-14.40 and Screen Sport 12.40-14.40. Fiji v Romania, 12.45-14.45; Argentina v Western Samoa, 17.50-19.05 and Screen Sport 17.50-19.05.

ITV persuades hoi polloi across rugby's great divide

AFTER a week of watching, I realise that the Rugby World Cup is being televised by ITV and not the BBC. Why should ITV have had to accept for so long the lapidary decree that has given almost every decent sporting event to its rival?

Why should it have endured all those humiliating years of counteracting *Grandstand* with *Fat Women's Competitive Bowls* Castle Tram-polling live from Gotham City. Why should the BBC always be allowed to wallow in those weeks of sumptuous screen time, always be allowed to be gentlemen of leisure, painting slow, untroubled stills of soccer players bent over their cues, of the Royal Box at Wimbledon, of the alligators at Kiawah Island?

Meanwhile, ITV's afternoon schedule has had to comprise a brave multicultural patchwork of *Fantasy Island*, *Give Us a Cue*, *Home and Away*, *The High Road*, *That's My Dog* and films with blubs like *Deadly City* (1983), a made-for-TV movie, with Stefanie Powers and Eileen Zimbalist Jr?

It is not fair. ITV should be allowed to have a crack at a biggie like the Rugby World Cup. For too long it has been told that money cannot buy it the Reithian Corinthian nobility of the BBC. It has been told that it cannot be trusted not to turn traditional events into commercial breaks inter-

persed with the odd nugget of sport and smothered in Ronald Reagan Presidential Inauguration Ceremony Sauce. It has been told that it is not its fault, just as it is not the fault of the *nouveau riche* if they wish their diamond doorbells to ring.

But these are inessential. The problem, for me, lay in ITV's essential nature, its undeniably violent urges towards getting its audiences into an amiable stranglehold and telling them how much they are enjoying what they are watching, urges which are not unrelated to the need to attract advertisers.

ITV has to present things as being so important that not to watch them would be madness. The BBC can simply assume that you are watching out of love.

I have always believed, deep down, in the Reithian Corinthian nobility of the BBC and now I believe that this was best for rugby union.

Rugby is standing on this ill-defined borderline between amateurism and professionalism, and I felt that ITV, which would surely treat the World Cup as something that had to be won if teams, nations, wished to retain their self-belief, their sanity, would push rugby once and for all into that harsh world whose first law decrees Victory at Any Price.

Instead, there has been a naive kindness in ITV's presentation of the rugby; unlike the BBC, it has not been able to assume that everybody has

known the rules of the game since birth and it has told you things.

It has kept faith with seasoned experts, with the big, reassuring faces of Clive Norling, Steve Smith and Fran Cotton, with their indestructibly relaxed, down-to-earth good-blokshees.

The World Cup may well attract for rugby a new audience, but what is responding to is the Event, the continuum, the finite progress of a competition. Go to Twickenham and you will still find an overwhelming majority of Old East Sheenians to their rugged jerseys: regular types who go to the pub before Sunday lunch, who worship Rik Mayall, who go on *Blind Date* and then say on the

follow-up interview: "Game guy - serious woman - but I couldn't handle those white stilettos", who love rugby because it is always butch but rarely violent.

Rugby union is a sporting sanctuary for nice chaps and perhaps always will be. Paying players for outside activities will not change that. The law of Victory at Any Price, which the England team has been living under, many with luck repeated after its failure to do anything but turn players into terrified and te

Eagles swoop on defence to end their Rugby World Cup campaign dignified in defeat

England's flying start stalls

England 37
United States 9

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE American way may not earn the United States too many victories at this level of competition but nobody at a packed Twickenham yesterday could complain at the whole-hearted defence which restricted England, in their final Pool 1 game of the World Cup, to a win by four goals, a try and three penalty goals to a goal and a penalty.

However, an exercise in damage limitation is all it was. There was never a doubt that England would both qualify for the quarter-finals and mark Will Carling's 22nd appearance as captain — overtaking Bill Beaumont's record — with victory. Indeed, Carling took the opportunity to make his own mark, scoring his first international try since February 1990.

The English management and players can now take their rest and recreation in Jersey and concentrate on next Saturday's game in Paris; they will watch the telecast of tomorrow's game in Agen between France and Canada with particular interest, anticipating French opposition at Parc des Princes and knowing they will have to elevate their standard of play considerably from what they have achieved in their pool.

In fact, yesterday they played some of their uncharacteristic rugby of the tournament, on either side of half-time: Andrew was uncharacteristically loose in his line kicking and some of the passing left players begging to be knocked over — which they were — by a physical American defence. Nonetheless, the pressure under which the United States came can be seen by the penalty count of 26-9 against them, far too many of which were conceded by Flay, the New Zealand-born hooker, who was so often offside.

Games that one side is expected to win overwhelmingly can frequently prove difficult, as New Zealand



POOL 1 TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	0	1	85	33
New Zealand	2	2	0	0	64	18
Italy	2	1	0	1	36	45
US	3	0	0	3	24	13

World Cup rugby, page 38

discovered against the same opponents. If England thought that they were going to romp away after scoring 12 points in as many minutes, they were sorely mistaken; the Eagles, who fly home this morning without a win, were not to be grounded at rugby's headquarters without a display full of national pride.

Its apex came just after half-time when Fido, their lively scrum half, skipped away to relieve a period of some intensity. Ridnell's lineout win allowed Williams to create hesitation between Andrew and Carling. Hein careered in from the blind-side wing and Nelson was free, with Sheehy in support, as he scored against a defence in an embarrassing tangle.

"It was hard to keep concentration for any length of time," Carling said. "That was because of the mix of players coming in for their first game and desperate to impress, and several who were playing their third game in nine days, and may have been a bit lacklustre." Whatever the reason, England found it hard to impose themselves at the set pieces, the lineouts — of which there were comparatively few — remaining level until the final quarter when Redman and Dooley overcame the challenge of Swords and Tunnachiffe.

The Americans also profited from quick feeds at the scrums, but Hodgkinson proved equal to the demands



Making short work: Hill, the England scrum half, powers his way past Williams at Twickenham yesterday

placed on him by the kicking from half back. Indeed, Hodgkinson was one of those coming into the team whose footballing skills stood out; his match return was 17 points (he missed only two kicks) and since he laid on both Underwood's tries, he underscored England's strength at full back.

His first two penalties came either side of a try which had his touches of force about it; Andrew recognised an early chance to run the ball and Hodgkinson slid a lovely kick parallel with the east touch-line. Williams looked to have it covered but the American centre failed to gather the ball at the corner, leaving Underwood with one of the simpler

of his 31 international tries. Underwood was involved, too, in the second try; he came off his wing to carve through the middle before Carling, with a hint of a dummy, crossed by the posts. The United States looked for encouragement to Williams and O'Brien, their place-kickers, but Williams could land only one of three attempts to leave his side trailing 21-3 at the interval.

If this had been a boxing match, the third quarter would have been the United States' on points, but points in any number were what they could not score and in the closing stages they were drained. Skinner, an energetic

presence throughout, scored close to the scrum after supporting Hill's break close to the line, and the scrum half was twice involved before Heslop cut back against the grain of the defence for a try under the posts.

The United States, who had replaced Higgins at the interval, introduced Wilkerson for his first cap when Farley limped off but their thunderous tackling sustained them until deep into injury-time, when they were drawn to the right before Hodgkinson, in acres of space, placed a precise diagonal for Underwood, on his wrong wing, to touch down. It was, you might say, an encouraging day for wings

be they those of England or of Eagles.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Underwood (2), Carling, Skinner, Heslop, Conversion: Hodgkinson (4). Penalties: Hodgkinson (3). United States: Try: Nelson, Conversion: Williams. Penalty: Williams. ENGLAND: S O Hodgkinson (Wing), N J Heslop (Wing), W O C Carling (Halfback), S J J Halford (Fullback), R Underwood (Fullback), C R Andrew (Wing), R J Hill (Scrum), J Leonard (Halfback), C J O'Brien (Halfback), C P Pearce (Halfback), M G Skinner (Halfback), N C Redman (Scrum), W A Dooley (Scrum), D W Jones (Scrum), D Richards (Scrum). UNITED STATES: R A Nelson (Scrum), G M Hein (Scrum), M A Williams (Scrum), K G Higgins (Scrum), M G De Jong (Scrum), D Barber (Scrum), P J Sheehy (Scrum), C P O'Brien (Scrum), M O Fido (Scrum), L Munge (Scrum), A W Flay (Scrum), N Munn (Scrum), Loman (Scrum), C E Tunnachiffe (Scrum), K R Swords (Scrum), C L Farley (Scrum), J P Wilkerson (Scrum), J J Pugh (Scrum), R Nelson (Scrum), L J Ford (Wing).

MATCH FACTS			
Attendance: 57,500.	Penalties/free kicks		
Territorial advantage	Award	Tap	Goal
England 50min, United States 33	England	26	3
Possession	US	9	1
England 46min, United States 36	Stand-off halves		
Scrummages	Run	Kick	Pass
	England	0	12
	O'Brien	0	10
	Kicks at goal		
	Hodgkinson	8	7
	Williams	4	2
	O'Brien	1	0
	Statistics supplied by Unisys		

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
PRESENTS
Rugby
CURIOUS FACT NO. 5

In 1980, New Zealand were reputed to be improving their ball handling skills, using house bricks. This was at the behest of coach Eric Watson, who was unhappy with his threequarters. So successful was this unorthodox ploy, that the New Zealanders went on to beat arch-rivals Australia 26-10, and in the process earn the nickname, "The All Bricks".

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RUGBY WORLD CUP 1991

Victors express the need to improve

By PETER BILLS

ENGLAND'S reaction to victory yesterday was somewhat reserved. "There is a world of difference between the two games we have played this week (against Italy and the United States) and what we will face in a week's time in the quarter-final," the manager, Geoff Cooke, said.

"This display fell a little short of expectations as regards our performance. The players know that sort of performance won't be good enough to beat France."

Roger Uttley, the coach, looked equally bereft of elation. "After the first quarter we fell away and played fitfully," he said. "We had problems maintaining any real continuity." Will Carling, the captain, felt that his team had eased off at vital moments.

Neither did England's performance impress the United States coach, Jim Perkins. It fell a long way short, he felt, of the standard reached by New Zealand in their game against the Americans at Gloucester on Tuesday. "We

very much surprised New Zealand in the first 20 minutes and caught them 'unawares'. They took a little time to regroup but they are very good at sorting out their problems and getting back on track. They are like a machine grinding you down."

"I didn't see that from England. In the second half they showed a little panic when we put some pressure on them. It was a more inconsistent display by England compared to the All Blacks."

The Americans leave Gatwick today, homeward

bound after an experience described as "invaluable" by their manager, Ed Schram. "We have learned the level we need to have to compete. But I think we have shown the Eagles are able to play good rugby for an extended time throughout a game."

The lack of regular quality opposition blamed by Schram for his team's modest displays may be remedied in future if the United States continue with invitations to the leading countries, Italy, Spain and Korea have all been invited for tours next year.

Gascoigne confident of proving fitness

PAUL Gascoigne predicted in a television interview last night that he would be playing by mid-April — six weeks before the deadline set for proving his fitness to Lazio, his prospective employers (Clive White writes).

Speaking on Sky Sports about his proposed £2.5 million transfer, he said: "When you see me worried, you'll know the deal is off. The deal is not off."

Gascoigne said that the latest injury suffered to his

damaged knee had put his recovery back a further month and a half and that the specialists had been planning for him to return to competitive action at the end of January.

"The main thing is just resting now," he said. "In general it is well. The bend looks good, it looks solid, and it's just a matter of waiting for the bone to heal so I can get working."

More football, page 39

A lament for the out-of-tune terrace choristers

You're not singing anymore, this terrace reproof can now be addressed to the entire Welsh nation. There was little enough to sing about after the Welsh rugby team's defeat by the shockingly mighty men of Western Samoa, and I am assured that even before the match began, the singing of the national anthem was flat. One Welshman blamed the closure of the mines: there's nothing to sing on the way to any more. But I seem to be pursued by bad Welsh singing: in Monaco last week, the followers of Swansea City football club all seem to have lost their country's musical heritage. They gave us not anthems and harmonies, but "We ate Cardiff".

And the English singing at the Rugby World Cup has been even more dire. Why does there have to be this incessant vocal display of sexual parts in "rugby songs" in pubs after matches? You would not think people would dare to behave in such a fashion, at least not in public, in a post-Freudian world.

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

Now Ladbrokes are trying to do something about this by organising a competition for the best male voice choir from any rugby club in the United Kingdom. So far so good. Now for the bad news: the competition is for the best rendition of *Top of the World* by The Carpenters. Perhaps the Welsh team will have a crack at it after its match against Australia this afternoon.

MORE on music. The BBC, not only guilty a thousand times over of the exploitation of music in a sporting context, has now won an award for it. Now they will never stop. Yup, BBC Television Sport has won a special mention in the Golden Pegasus award in Monaco — Felle was one of the judges — for the inevitable slip-mo sequence. This time the subject was Gazza, and it was shown one hour before the Cup Final, the

match in which Gazza exploded himself. The music was Nina Simone singing. Please don't let me be misunderstood.

4000-run prodigy
And now, with November and the dreaded clocks in sight, I bring you a last breath of summer. Marcus Trescothick needed two runs off the final ball of the



Nina Simone: voice over

summer to reach a phenomenal 4,000 runs for the season. Trescothick is aged 15, and was playing for Keynesham cricket club. He needed 85 to reach this ludicrous target when his innings began. With his score on 83, he faced the final ball. Playing one of the better shots in my own repertoire, he edged the ball along the ground to the wicketkeeper. He went for the single anyway, which would have given him 3,999. But the keeper, kind fellow, shielded at the stumps, missed, and Trescothick had an extra run for the overthrow and that patriarchal aggregate. I wonder if he will live the rest of his life in the shadow of his annus mirabilis. He says his ambition is to play for Somerset.

Sporting life
How splendid it is, in a changing world, to realise that the old archetype of the competitor who gives up the chance of victory to help a stricken opponent is still alive and well. They even give awards for it, which I think is rather

against the spirit of noble sacrifice. Ivan Lawler and Graham Burns won something called the UNESCO premier fair play award. They are canoeists. They took part in the world marathon championship and found that the Danish crew had broken their rudder and that their craft was impossible to control. They stopped and helped fix it, and then both crews set off to race again. The Brits came second. The Danes won. I am quite confident that Nigel Mansell will do the same thing if he finds Ayrton Senna in such a pickle when the two battle for the Formula One world championship next weekend.

WHEN The Times speaks, the world acts. Last summer this newspaper suggested in a leading article that football's problems could be overcome if the goal were made larger. Now football, as represented by the New England Small College Athletic Conference, has gone ahead and done so: it now plays with goals four feet bigger than standard. America's Sports Illustrated magazine comments: "A fundamen-

tal change on the most popular sport in the world seems ill-advised."

Exiles excel

Rugby team of the week: London Cornish. This season, this gathering of exiles has managed to put out a third XV for the first time in its history. They are not finding it all smooth going. They gathered in a pub before a fixture they were confidently expected to lose 40-0. They then discovered they had no kit, no transport, and only 13 players. They organised a whirlwind convoy of taxis and private cars, arrived at the opponents' ground only slightly embarrassingly late, and promptly discovered to see the last property box. The indomitable XIII — a good number for a rugby side — played in whatever lost and smelly items of kit they could lay their hands on, and fought heroically, losing by a mere 10-0.
